

Women to get retirement age equality

By Amanda Haigh, Parliamentary Staff

Women will have the right to continue working until the same age as men under Government plans for equality of retirement age announced yesterday by the Department of Employment.

and the Government believes that the new statutory provisions are a desirable extension of equal opportunity.

The Government plans to make the amendments when the Sex Discrimination Bill, now in the House of Lords, enters the Commons, which could be as early as May, which means it could become law within 18 months.



Sir Geoffrey, in yellow turban and garland, at a community centre in Chauhama, near Agra, where he laid a foundation stone on which he was named as 'The Hon'ble Sir Geoffrey'.

Tomorrow Reach for the sky

How Norman Foster built the world's most expensive skyscraper in Hong Kong

Power of Islam Robert Fisk on the fundamentalist upheaval in Beirut

Portfolio There is £4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio competition because there was no winner yesterday.

Moscow still wants summit The Soviet Union wants a full summit with President Reagan this year as well as the emergency meeting on nuclear test bans which the White House has rejected.

Boycott vote The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers voted at its annual conference in Scarborough yesterday to boycott training courses for the planned General Certificate of Secondary Education.

French quit France's decision to withdraw its military observers from Beirut marks a shift away from its support for President Gemayel.

On This Day On April 2, 1924, Adolf Hitler was convicted of attempting to lead a Nationalist revolt from a Munich beer hall, but served only one year of a five-year sentence.

Unionists reject Thatcher talks

Unionist leaders have rejected Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's offer of talks on the Anglo-Irish agreement, bringing the prospect of escalating street disorder and loyalist protests in Northern Ireland.

Heathrow opens new terminal

Heathrow's massive new Terminal 4 was officially opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday before starting passenger business on April 12.

New Delhi Sikh deal ruled out

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, last night virtually ruled out the possibility of negotiating a new extradition treaty with India to deal with the problem of Sikh extremist separatists operating in Britain.

Canadian Club goes British

Allied-lyons, the Tedley tea to Double Diamond food and drinks group, is buying the Canadian company, Hiram Walker Spirits, one of the world's biggest distillers, for £2.6 billion (£1.27 billion).

Tin crisis stops Cornish mining

One of the Cornish tin producers struggling to survive in the wake of the tin crisis announced yesterday that mining would be suspended from Monday and that most of its 358 employees would be laid off in the next two weeks.

Search for £80m 'spent' by GLC before abolition

The court case has not reached a final judgement in the House of Lords, even though the GLC no longer exists. The money undoubtedly exists in a variety of complicated forms, which the expiring GLC did its best to protect against legal challenge.

The fate of the GLC's final cash holdings will take much unravelling because it is entangled in complex legal arguments. The council was embroiled to its last hours in a complicated court case brought by Conservative-led borough councils, which complained that the GLC should not be allowed to allocate money for spending after its abolition.

Hampton Court work 'to take years'

The sum for the art works will be reclaimed from insurers, but the building itself, like all Government property, is uninsured and the cost of restoration will be borne by the taxpayer. The work is expected to take several years.

North Sea oil under \$10 for first time

The price of North Sea oil fell below \$10 a barrel for the first time ever yesterday. Dealers expect a further drop in the price, to a level which could threaten the viability of some of Britain's offshore oilfields.

Britons held on drugs charges in Australia

Three south Londoners were yesterday held by Customs officers in Australia after a joint inquiry by British and Australian investigators into an alleged cocaine smuggling ring stretching from South America through Britain to Sydney.

Royal homes

of Gold by an unknown sixteenth-century artist, were damaged, mainly by water. The other damaged pictures are: The Queen of Bohemia by Hans Holbein the Younger; The Archduchess Isabella by Pourbus; Crossing the Rhine by Wycik; The Madonna and Child after Parmigianino; The Battle of the Spurs; and The Family of Henry VIII.

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Advertisement for Laing & Cruickshank Stockbrokers, featuring a logo and contact information for their London office.

Second biggest teacher union to boycott training for GCSE

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The conference of the second biggest teachers' union voted unanimously yesterday to boycott the development of the new General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examination for pupils aged 16, unless certain conditions are met.

Speaker after speaker at the annual conference in Scarborough of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which has a membership of 127,000, said that there would be chaos in the autumn when the examination courses are due to begin, if the Government insisted on introducing it this year. Teachers did not yet have the new syllabuses or text books.

Afterwards Mr Fred Smith, the union's general secretary, said that he believed Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, would bow to pressure and postpone introducing the examination. "I don't believe Sir Keith wants to be responsible for the introduction of an unsuccessful exam. I also believe there will be increasing pressure from local authorities for Sir Keith to bow to the inevitable."

He said that the boycott meant his members would be instructed not to take part in the two-day training course at the end of the summer term.

A move to toughen the introduction of the new examination in September, as well as its development stage, was defeated.

The motion passed declared that before the union would participate in the new examination, the timetable for its introduction would have to be extended; adequate resources would have to be supplied for training, employing extra teachers and buying books and equipment; and appropriate examination fees would have to be negotiated.

Moving the motion, Mr Graham Terrell, an executive member, said: "We should make sure that we don't just get the GCSE, but that we get it right. The real risk being taken is that it is the children who will be the guinea pigs. Their results will depend on a school's readiness for the exam."

The GCSE, which replaces O levels and the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE), from local authorities for Sir Keith to bow to the inevitable."

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Mr Terrell said later that a growing number of examination boards, including London Regional, East Midlands, Yorkshire, Humberside and the East Anglian, supported a move to postpone the change.

Mr Les Moores, of Woking, told conference that he feared "a fudged issue". He said: "The executive should give us clear instructions that we are to go on strike for the two days of training. That way we will be protected."

Mr Terrell said that the executive needed flexibility in case the campaign against the development of the GCSE failed.

This brought a fierce response from Mrs Susan Rogers, of Sheffield: "The association must not accept the concept that the GCSE will come in September", she said. Claiming that teachers would not receive their syllabuses until then, she added: "You will be faced with a new class and reading the syllabus as you go along."

Teachers belonging to the NAS/UWT are to refuse to teach handicapped children where resources are inadequate to meet the requirements of legislation, the conference decided.



A young boy with a toy gun seems to be playing guard to a Junior Orange Lodge parade in Larne, Co Antrim, yesterday.

Unionists reject Thatcher talks

Continued from page 1

riots in Portadown, including nine attacks on their homes. The police made 33 arrests, 29 police and 38 civilians were injured, 146 plastic bullets were fired and there were 14 attempts to intimidate the police and a similar number of civilians.

The manner in which the police withstood violent attacks from loyalists has confirmed the chief constable's belief that the force can be relied upon to do its duty, while the firing of plastic bullets at loyalist rioters has infuriated hardliners who are blaming the RUC for harassing Protestants.

The rioting in Portadown was followed by sporadic violence including petrol bomb attacks on the homes of four Roman Catholics in Lurgan, Co Antrim, and attacks on the homes of police officers in Portadown, Craigavon, Lurgan and Newtownabbey.

Two shots were fired at a vehicle containing masked men after the RUC chased a car involved in the shooting of a policeman's home in Lurgan early yesterday.

In Newtownabbey, five shots were fired at the home of a police reservist.

In Belfast, there were petrol bomb attacks on businesses near the city centre, buses were attacked, schools damaged and the car of Dr Joe Hendon, a Social Democratic and Labour Party assembly member, was attacked outside his home in south Belfast.

Yesterday, thousands of junior Orangemen paraded through Larne for their traditional Easter parade. It passed off without disturbance.

Supremely confident leader of RUC

By Richard Ford

One man is in no doubt about his position and that of the 12,767 police officers he leads. As "loyalists" increase attacks on the security forces and attempt to break the predominantly Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary, its chief constable, Sir John Hermon, remains supremely confident that the divided community of Northern Ireland can rely on his officers to enforce the law.

Indeed at an RUC function shortly after the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement, he sought to reassure his audience. Sir John produced his new uniform, saying it meant he was staying in his job in spite of a record number of calls for his resignation.

His uniform was tailored in traditional dark green cloth. The message was clear, the uniform and its distinctive cap badge would not change and he would remain chief constable.

It is unlikely that the longest serving chief constable since the troubles began would have remained to start his seventh year in perhaps the most arduous police post in the United Kingdom unless he was convinced that in the long term the agreement could bring benefits in the fight against terrorism.

He knew that inevitable nationalist opposition to the deal would face his men and women, 90 per cent of whom are Protestants with a big test of professionalism.

The traditional marching season will test the RUC, particularly if loyalists are intent on confronting the security forces on the streets and in more sinister ways by attempting to intimidate them in their homes in largely Protestant areas.

His climb to the top has been assisted by good intellect and managerial skills and judicious luck. Sir John has been a key figure since the early 1970s in reshaping the RUC and security policy which led in 1976 to "Ulsterisation", in which police took over more duties from the Army. Becoming chief constable in 1980, Sir John arrived with a reputation for professionalism, toughness, non-sectarianism and a belief in strict discipline. He also has the typically Ulster trait of being stubborn and blunt to a point which has not always

strengthened him to ministers and has landed him in frequent controversy. Sir John, who is 57, joined the RUC in 1958 after a brief period studying accountancy and quickly came face to face with terrorism. He gained his first promotion to sergeant when he replaced a man killed during the IRA's 1956-1962 campaign.

His tough approach has brought enemies within the lower ranks and he has a deep contempt bordering on disdain for many of the province's politicians, suspecting they are more extreme than the people. In private he exudes considerable charm, has good relations with leading figures from both sides and although at times displays a self-confidence bordering on arrogance, tells jokes against himself. He and Lady Hermon, who have two grown up children, live in a flat at the fortress-like RUC headquarters, but they refuse to become prisoners, enjoying a varied social life.

NUT merger call to second union

By George Hill

Conservative Party plans for Whitehall-controlled inner city "crown" schools were criticized yesterday as a "half-baked solution" from the past.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour spokesman on education, described the scheme as "yet another educational solution from the past".

Mr Hancock, MP for Portsmouth South, said the English education system was rotten and needed not tinkering but a complete overhaul.

"It is the apathy of Sir Keith Joseph and other ministers that have got the schools into this mess, while local educational authorities have fought gallantly against huge political odds to provide a decent service," he said.

The proposal, which could be part of the Conservative election manifesto, would remove schools in the inner city areas from local authority control.

Schools scheme attacked

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'Women-only' rejected

By George Hill

A move to increase the number of women on the executive of the National Union of Teachers, 72 per cent of whose membership is female, was rejected yesterday at the conference.

Mrs Barbara Lloyd, one of the nine women on the NUT's 41-member executive, described the proposal for five new women-only seats as "tokenism at its worst".

The resolution, which also called for positive discrimination for women teachers looking for promotion, was defeated on a show of hands.

Meryl Davies, from South-west, put forward a resolution that the union be committed to a campaign against sexual harassment in schools.

She told the conference: "Sexism is apparent in our schools in a curriculum which does not acknowledge even the existence of women in history as scientists, mathematicians, authors and playwrights."

Debate on the resolution, which also proposed setting up homosexual teacher conferences, was adjourned without a vote.

Labour pledge on help for elderly

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A new package of benefits for pensioners was unveiled by the Labour Party yesterday in the run-up to next week's Fulham by-election.

The 10-point programme, which includes new pledges for the elderly, is sure to lead to debate with the Government over the cost.

Launching the package while campaigning in Fulham, Mr Michael Meacher, Labour social services spokesman, said it would include an increased death grant to at least £200 and a new winter premium of £5 a week for all pensioners on supplementary benefit and to one million widows and pensioners living on the poverty line.

The package would also contain a nationwide, off-peak, half-fare travel system; an immediate rise in basic State pensions of £5 a week for single people and £8 for pensioner couples; and retention of the state earnings-related pension scheme.

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Libyan pilot ban stays

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

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But the principal of the flying school, Mr Colin Beckwith, said it has 300 solo flying imposed on the trainee Libyan pilots would continue in spite of the police decision.

Mr Meacher said that in Labour's first year of office, a single pensioner would receive the equivalent of one-third of average earnings per week, and a couple almost half average earnings.

By retaining Serps, a single person's pension would be equivalent to 43 per cent of average earnings by 1998, and that of a married couple to 57 per cent of average earnings.

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Glasgow rules out newspaper fences

By Ronald Faux

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Glasgow planning department said that the fences broke regulations. "Barbed wire and other encroachments which have been put up will all have to come down. It is up to each proprietor to apply for planning permission for such measures."

Planning inspectors in Glasgow were drawing up a list last night of properties and factory premises in the city where similar defences have appeared in the past few months.

On the eve of the deadline set by Mr Maxwell for his Scottish workforce to apply for their jobs back with the two new companies he has set up, the National Union of Journalists chapel at the Daily Record voted to accept, though only after proper negotiation, the principle of a five-day working week, which Mr Maxwell has been insisting on. Last night it was understood that only five journalists at the Daily Record and Sunday Mail had filed in forms provided by Mr Maxwell to apply for their jobs.

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The Hampton Court fire Restoration 'to take years'

Continued from page 1

mirrors, candle stands and items of gilded wood furniture were damaged.

Art experts will shortly begin sifting through the pile of rubble that now litters the floor of the chamber in the hope of recovering parts of the damaged items.

Architects from the Property Services Agency, which maintains the palace, were yesterday assessing the structural damage. Mr Michael Falkland of the agency said that the first priority would be to place a temporary cover over the damaged area where the roof had collapsed before carrying out a detailed examination of the damage.

Officials of the agency said that it was too soon to know in detail what work would be required.

Mr Ian Gray, the palace superintendent, said that parts of it, but not the damaged area, would be reopened to the public "within a few days".

The fire began in a private grace and favour flat in Fountain Court at the centre of the palace, and spread in the state apartments on the floor beneath.

Mr Gray denied suggestions that there had been concern for some time over the ability of Lady Gale, who died in the fire, to look after herself on her own in the flat.

strokes, but doctors said she was fit enough to live on her own. You cannot impose on the tenants too much," Mr Gray said.

He added that Palace officials had no evidence to suggest that the fire had been started by lit candles.

The fire was first noticed by smoke detectors which sounded an alarm in the Palace security office, shortly after 5.30 am on Monday.

Sprinklers are not fitted in the state apartments because of the damage they would inflict on works of art.

Mr Gray said that firemen had arrived within five minutes of being called, and he praised their speed.

Rare call to duty for royal coroner

By Richard Dowden

The inquest on the body found after the Hampton Court fire means a rare call to duty for the Queen's Household Coroner.

This is the first time Lieutenant-Colonel George McEwan has held such an inquest since he was appointed to the century-old post in December 1983.

The last death to fall to the Household Coroner came in 1978 when a maid in St James's Palace took a drug overdose.

Public purse to foot Hampton Court bill

By Richard Dowden

Hampton Court, like all royal palaces and government buildings, was not insured commercially. The rebuilding will be paid for out of the public purse.

It appears to be accepted wisdom in Whitehall that the premiums involved in insuring Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament and similar buildings would be greater than the occasional bill for a disaster such as happened at Hampton Court.

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Lonrho preparing new offer for Land Rover

By Clifford Webb

The Lonrho group is preparing a new offer for Land Rover after receiving more information from the BL board.

The offer will be submitted before the April 15 deadline the board set last week for Lonrho and the rival Land Rover management buy-out team to confirm or renew their offers.

The management team, which is headed by Mr David Andrews, a BL director, said yesterday that it was "quite happy" with its original offer made on February 24 and would not be changing it.

A senior member of the Lonrho board said: "In the first round we were provided with the absolute minimum of information and refused facilities to inspect the factory."

"Despite these very considerable obstacles and the very short time in which to prepare our offer, it must have been good enough to qualify us to go into the second round."

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Falklanders are keen to stay British

By Patricia Clough

A Falkland Islands survey shows that 94.5 per cent of the islanders want to remain British, and only 0.3 per cent equivalent to three people, want the Argentine to take over. It was disclosed yesterday.

Exactly four years after the Argentine invasion, the survey of the 1,033 voters was commissioned by the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Association from Marplan.

Only 5.2 per cent favoured other solutions to the islands' future.

In all 920 islanders, or 89 per cent of those, responded to the survey. The results were vetted by the Electoral Reform Society.

In terms of actual numbers, the survey showed that 869 Falklanders wanted British sovereignty, 15 wanted independence, nine favoured a lease-back agreement, three a United Nations trusteeship and the Argentine to govern. Eleven proposed some other solution and 10 chose two solutions.

BR chief to stay on

By our Transport Editor

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, is to continue for a further three years from next year, it was disclosed yesterday.

Sir Robert, aged 65, was appointed in 1984 and it was thought unlikely that he would take a second term.

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Professional men most likely to cite adultery as grounds for divorce

By Thomson Pringle

Divorce statistics seem to show a class distinction between what are considered acceptable grounds for ending a marriage, a survey has shown.

The survey of the reasons for divorce in England and Wales shows a "distinct social class gradient" in the proportion of divorce decrees which are awarded to wives.

Women married to men in professional occupations are least likely to seek divorce, especially on grounds of unreasonable behaviour, compared with those whose husbands have an unskilled job.

But professional men cited adultery by their wives as grounds for divorce in the majority of their cases - 46 per cent - while only one wife in four married to a professional alleged his adultery.

"Adultery is cited relatively more often among couples in the higher social classes than in the manual occupation social classes," Mr John Haskey, a statistician at the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in London, says in his report.

Warning to hostels on alcohol

The tradition of youth hostels in England and Wales as healthy, safe refuges for young travellers is in danger of being eroded, it was claimed yesterday.

Action on Alcohol Abuse condemned a motion to be considered by a Youth Hostels Association council conference on Saturday, allowing wine and beer to be served with meals to people aged 18 and over and on special occasions at the YHA's 260 hostels.

Mr Don Steele, AAA director, said in London: "The YHA, which stands in the best tradition of British provision for the health and well-being of young people, will become just another licensed hotel."

The AAA was formed three years ago at a conference of medical colleges. Mr Andrew Chinnock, the YHA's chief executive, said yesterday: "In no way are our hostels going to become drinking dens. A trial scheme, allowing beer and wine with meals to people aged 18 and over was introduced two years ago in three hostels in the West Country and the Peak District. There was no evidence of alcohol abuse."

Firm set to defy the Queen

By Gavin Bell

An Essex company is set to incur royal displeasure by printing half a million colour transfers for T-shirts to commemorate the wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson in July.

Imagine Transfers of Braintree, will begin producing the heart-shaped transfers today, depicting the royal couple with "congratulations" in response to trade demand from Europe and the Commonwealth.

Lord Airlie, Lord Chamberlain, started a controversy last week by announcing that royal portraits and emblems should not be reproduced on clothing other than headscarves.

Venables plea

Terry Venables, aged 43, the manager of Barcelona football club, is petitioning for divorce, according to a statement issued by his wife's solicitors yesterday.

Portrait of a top executive

By Robin Young

The average chief executive of a leading British company is male, aged 52, married with two or more children, and has responsibility for 5,656 employees. He spends 52 nights a year away from home on business, and arrives at the office well before 8.20 am unless he is taking one of his 22 days' annual leave, almost certainly abroad.

This portrait emerges from a study of corporate leadership prepared by PA consulting group, the international management and technology advisers, who surveyed 256 companies from The Times Top 1000.

It also discovered that British company chiefs are more likely to have attended a grammar school than a public school, and will have achieved their first directorship within 15 years of professional life, unless they were following in fathers' footsteps, in which case progress would have been even quicker.

Most chief executives choose to live in the country within 35 minutes of their

Girl told to 'avoid strangers'

The father of Sarah Harper, the missing schoolgirl, said yesterday she had been told not to talk to strangers.

Mr Terry Harper, aged 30, a dentist, said: "I was always telling her not to go in cars with anyone she did not know. She used to say: 'I won't.'"

"At times has gone on I have to think something terrible has happened."

Mr Harper, of Rothwell, near Leeds, who is divorced from Sarah's mother, Mrs Jackie Harper, said: "Whoever is responsible, I plead with them to ring the police even if it's bad news."

Sarah, aged 10, went missing last Wednesday on a short shopping trip near her home in Morley, near Leeds.

Detectives yesterday appealed to anyone who finds a pair of Clark's size 11 brown shoes, as worn by the missing girl, to get in touch with the police.

University sets up an animal welfare chair

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

The appointment of the world's first professor of animal welfare was heralded yesterday as an attempt to replace emotion and prejudice with scientific research.

Dr Donald Broom, reader in pure and applied zoology at Reading University, will take up his post at Cambridge in September. He immediately made it clear that he did not visualize himself as a "moral watchdog" but as someone in a position to advise on the situation "from the animals' point of view."

"Animal rights are not the same as animal welfare," he said. "A rabbit in a cage responds to its environmental conditions, irrespective of whether it is being kept for human food, for laboratory use or as a pet."

"A wild rabbit responds to being shot at, whether the

School beating award

The parents of a teenager, who claimed a teacher attacked their son during a school trip to Majorca two years ago, have received a £700 out-of-court settlement from Mid Glamorgan council.

The Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment said that after pupils

bands. Among couples where the husband obtained the decree, more husbands than wives remarried.

It also found that couples in their thirties are in the most dangerous age group for divorce because of adultery.

Women who obtain decrees because of their husbands' adultery are most likely to be in their early thirties, and older than their husbands, and are just as prone to being deserted.

However, men who seek a divorce because of their wives' extra-marital affairs are most likely to be in their late thirties, and five or more years older than their partners.

Couples where adultery or unreasonable behaviour has been proved, are the most likely to have dependent children, and to have married at younger than average ages, the survey shows.

Marriage partners with no children are more than twice as likely to part by mutual consent after two years' separation as couples with children.

The full report will be published in Vol.18, No.2 of the *Journal of Biosocial Science*.

Air routes in line for fares fight

A cut-price air fares contest may be on the way, according to the International Air Transport Association.

It said yesterday that American airlines are making more seats available on Atlantic routes than the market can cope with.

In addition the number of tourists from the United States has been falling.

The association's headquarters at Geneva reported Mr Gunter Eser, its director general, as saying that more than 750,000 seats had been crossing the Atlantic empty each month this winter. Mr Michael Spicer, Britain's aviation minister, said last month that in the present round of talks with the United States about renewing agreements on limiting the number of airline seats, Britain thought it was "essential" to prevent overcapacity.

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"Animal rights are not the same as animal welfare," he said. "A rabbit in a cage responds to its environmental conditions, irrespective of whether it is being kept for human food, for laboratory use or as a pet."

"A wild rabbit responds to being shot at, whether the

School beating award

The parents of a teenager, who claimed a teacher attacked their son during a school trip to Majorca two years ago, have received a £700 out-of-court settlement from Mid Glamorgan council.

The Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment said that after pupils

Portrait of a top executive

By Robin Young

office and drive themselves to work. They are health-conscious and set aside time for relaxation and sport (usually golf, tennis, or walking). Only 2 per cent jog. Their most popular pastimes are music, gardening and reading.

They are the consultants defence, increasingly international in outlook (more than half have spent more than three and a half years working abroad), but more concerned with people than profit. Nearly 70 per cent listed "people concerns" such as communication, motivation and selection of managers as their most important responsibilities.

Only just over a quarter cited profit, financial performance and return to shareholders. More than half said they had instituted formal processes to encourage innovation in their companies. Nearly one-fifth use a desk-top terminal, one-third a car phone, and nearly two-fifths a dictating machine. Yet, in maximizing their personal productivity only 2 per cent mentioned the use of computers.

Royal opening for £200m terminal

By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

The Prince and Princess of Wales formally opened the new Terminal 4 yesterday, to consolidate Heathrow's position as the world's top international airport.

Costing £200 million to build over four years, T4 will raise Heathrow traffic from 30 million to 38 million passengers a year, and should provide a substantial boost to British Airways, its main user.

In a wry comment on the size of the new terminal, the Prince said that he and his wife seemed to have walked miles, and suggested that the long vistas in modern airport terminals were perhaps designed to ensure that the passenger fell asleep as soon as he boarded the aircraft.

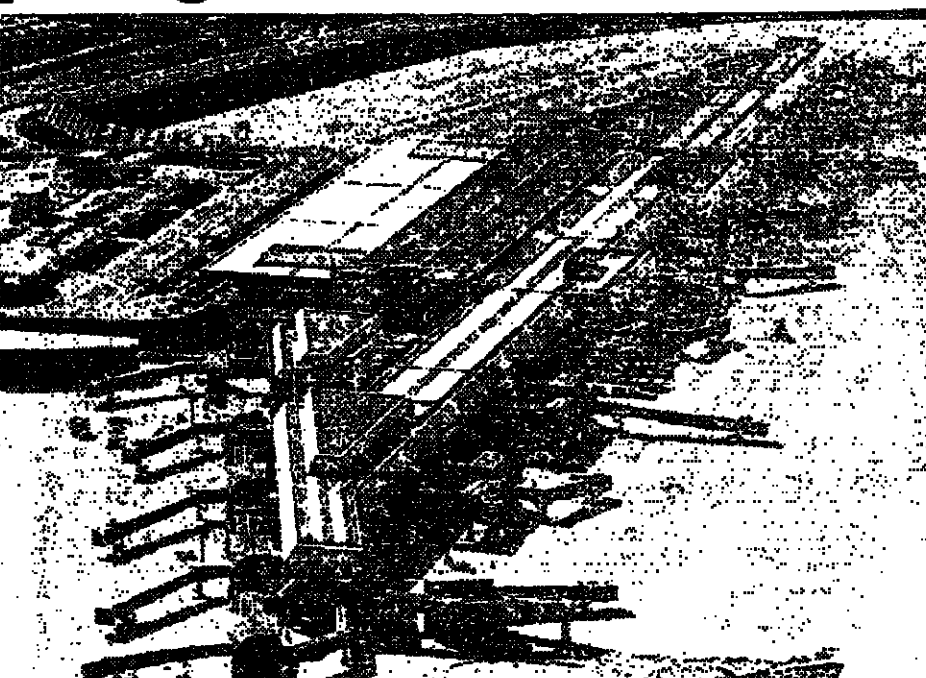
Before opening the terminal, the Prince and Princess inaugurated the London Underground extension to the Piccadilly Line, taking airport passengers on a loop beneath the airport, first to the new Heathrow Terminal 4 station, then to Heathrow Terminal 1, 2 and 3, formerly Heathrow Central.

The Prince's injured finger led to the royal couple performing a double act in opening the new Underground station, with the Princess holding the ribbon while the Prince snipped it with scissors in his uninjured right hand.

Later the couple joined more than 800 guests for lunch in the departure lounge of T4, which is more than two-thirds of a mile long and probably the world's most spacious airport terminal.

Hundreds of staff were on duty manning their normal positions in an attempt to create an illusion of a normal day at the newest terminal of the world's busiest international airport.

All the shops were manned and many of the British Airways and KLM check-in desks were staffed. Bank, catering, and bar staff were on duty. British Airways had even parked a Boeing 747 and a Concorde close to their normal stands.



Situated on the perimeter of the airport, T4 enjoys the advantage of better road connections to London, with a separate exit from the M25 that avoids the frequent jams in the tunnel to Terminals 1, 2 and 3.

But aircraft for T4 will need to cross a runway, which could cause queues.

About two-thirds of T4's eight million passengers a year will be on long-haul flights, relieving pressure on the cramped T3, which is to be modernized at a cost of more than £70 million.

In performing the opening ceremony, the Prince and Princess were continuing a Royal tradition started by the Queen when she opened the central passenger terminal 31 years ago.

Sir Norman Payne, Chairman of the British Airports Authority, said that Britain still enjoyed supremacy in international aviation, but Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and New York were all investing heavily.

"There is a long-term underlying growth in aviation," Sir Norman said, "but we have to run faster to hold on to our lead. Terminal 4 will play an important part in that."



The Prince of Wales using his "good" hand to cut the ribbon when opening Terminal 4 at Heathrow airport yesterday.

Duke puts plan to aid sports sponsors

The Duke of Edinburgh has repeated his call for a counselling service to be set up to help prospective sponsors of sporting events.

He also wants a subcommittee to oversee "parliamentary and Whitehall liaison in order that the real achievements of sports sponsorship can be put across."

The Duke was outlining a 12-point plan to make life easier for companies wishing to be involved in sports sponsorship, in his capacity as president of the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, which was formed five months ago and has already tripled its membership.

He said: "The sponsorship of sport has been transformed in the last 10 years. It is vital that this large and growing financial investment is put to best use for the benefit of both sport and the sponsoring company. The issue will play an increasingly important role in this area."

"I firmly believe that commercial companies have a great deal more to offer than simply money, and I hope that their professional expertise will be extended, through the institute, to governing bodies to improve efficiency, extend the sport's appeal and establish long-term and rewarding partnerships between sport and commerce."

Fan punched a policeman

A football supporter who punched a policeman as he was being arrested for trying to prevent another fan's arrest was sent to a detention centre for three weeks at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Luke Tall, aged 19, of Manor Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, a first offender, was arrested during a match at Loftus Road, west London, in February.

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Drugs 'rival tobacco as threat to discipline' in growing jails crisis

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Drugs have become as important as tobacco as an illicit currency in jail, according to Wandsworth Prison's board of visitors.

As a result discipline and control are undermined, the board says in its report for 1985. Trafficking in the prison is serious.

Wandsworth's report is only one sign of the growing prison crisis, which has almost brought officers to the point of industrial action, one of the most difficult situations the Home Office has to face.

The threat by the Prison Officers' Association comes as the jail population in England and Wales has climbed to 47,123, the highest figure this year. Increasing already unacceptable overcrowding.

The latest figure for people held in police cells, acknowledged to be unsuitable for the purpose, is 39, all in the South-east.

A circular by Mr David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, tells of the battle it says it has fought to protect essential services. These are regarded by prison staff as necessary to the effective running of the establishments.

They include the maintenance of proper levels of security and control, visits and association between prisoners out of their cells at set hours and workshops.

Staff say that a budget cut last year meant a reduction of about 1 1/2 hours a week in the work done by each officer.

This year, there is, they claim, a further reduction of about three hours a week. Although excessive overtime has been a recurring issue in prisons, the argument against cutting hours generally is that life for prisoners and staff becomes more restrictive, with increased tension as a result.

The association says new cuts to essential tasks are being proposed by the management to remain within budget. There are, it adds, cases where governors are rejecting established agreements as the basis for negotiation, and are making up their rules as they go along.

The prison officers are seeking a meeting of the Home Office prison department's Whitley council. It is expected to take place next Tuesday. The council is a forum for the discussion by management and staff representatives of conditions. If the meeting is

unsuccessful, there will be a ballot of members calling for industrial action.

The action will seek to protect manning levels. Mr Evans says in his circular, protect staff and inmate safety, and ensure prison regimes remain humane.

Prison officers say a bigger squeeze on cash limits could so restrict life in prisons that the individual safety of staff and prisoners would be threatened.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, announced on March 25 that 54 prison workshops would close. A further 31 would remain open provided improved performance could be sustained.

Six hundred inmates would be sent to other workshops, other jobs in prison or to educational or other training courses.

The closure of workshops at Holloway Prison, London, the under use of sports facilities and cancellation of education classes was yesterday criticized by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Prisoners were having to spend much too long in their cells. Miss Vivien Stern, Nacro's director, said,

Ministers want to loosen controls in the planning system because they act as "a brake on enterprise and on job-creating". But as Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent, reports, there are those for whom the system is quite loose enough already.

The garden at Stock Farm House slopes gently towards a belt of trees. The scene is set in leafy countryside in one of the more comfortable outer reaches of London's commuterland. It is classed officially as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

It is wise not to try to sample the beauty just beyond the end of the garden too closely. People can remember when the land behind the house was typical flat Surrey scrubland where village children played.

Today the same space is ringed by strands of barbed wire as a quarry is blasted and dug to a depth of 100ft and a width of about 70ft.

Mr Christopher Monk, who owns the house, does not want a deep quarry at the end of his garden, especially one at which only strands of wire keep wandering children at bay. He wants a rubbish dump even less, but that is what the immense hole is supposed to become once its potential as a quarry has been exhausted.

Mr Monk has won wide support from local people who have turned themselves into a protest group called the Stockstone Quarry Action Working Committee, or Sqawc for short.

The recent rapid expansion of the quarry has been based on a planning permission issued in 1952 by a council that was abolished more than 10 years ago. "It is perfectly ridiculous that a licence granted in 1952 should be suddenly

The planning muddle: 1 Rubbish dump legacy of a long-defunct council



Mr Christopher Monk and his wife at the barbed wire fence surrounding the quarry workings (Photograph: Peter Trivnar).

brought to life in a completely different way", Mr Monk complained.

The licence said that when the quarry had been fully worked it would have to be filled in or have its surface covered with "materials agreed to be suitable for plant growth".

Surrey County Council has agreed, on the basis of that

licence of 1952, to let the finished quarry be a dumping ground for London's rubbish.

Many urban councils suffer from a lack of deep holes in which to dump rubbish. They have to look far beyond their own boundaries for suitable dumping grounds.

Stockstone quarry looks ideal with its direct road access less than 50 miles from

London, except that many local people fear the endless rumble of heavy lorries.

The dumping plan is opposed by many parish councils, but their collective wrath is not enough to overrule the county authority.

Sqawc is therefore about to take the case to the High Court. Tomorrow: The looming warehouse.

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BBC to go private on catering

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The BBC is to privatize its catering services, saving £2 million a year with the loss of 588 jobs.

The proposal is the latest step in a reorganization programme designed to switch funds from administration to programme-making.

The changes, when complete, are likely to lead to a total loss of 2,000 staff jobs in engineering, security and administration. The BBC hopes that the changes will help to pay for more new programmes and the start of daytime television in the autumn.

BBC executives want to prove that the corporation is now run as a "tight ship" and defeat critics who want to see advertising on its broadcasts.

Most of the corporation's London catering units will be put in the hands of private contractors next month.

Of the posts lost in the catering reorganization, 100 are already unfilled and a further 51 will be lost through retirement. Private caterers at Television Centre, Broadcasting House and Lime Grove, are expected to employ some of the present staff.

In November, the corporation announced the loss of 550 posts, mainly in engineering, releasing £15.6 million for programme production. Two months later a further 625 jobs in engineering and support services were cut to save £7.5 million.

The BBC's commercial arm has signed a three year agreement with EMI records for the manufacture and distribution of the corporation's records.

Osprey is back in fixed nest

By Ronald Faux

An osprey has returned to the nesting site at Loch Garten in the Highlands. This sure sign of spring was doubly welcomed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which feared that the ospreys might not return after vandals cut the top 20 feet off the 50ft pine tree where ospreys have nested for the past 27 years.

The site is now protected by alarms and a 24-hour watch by volunteers.

Mr John Hunt, reserves manager for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in Scotland, said yesterday that a female osprey, which had laid eggs for the past five years at the loch, had settled at the nest.

The birds are sensitive to severe changes at the nest site. When vandals tried to cut down the tree, severing two of the main branches, the society feared that the ospreys would reject the repaired tree, which has bolted on branches and a nest refurbished on a platform. Mr Hunt said the female had flown from Africa, where she had wintered, on Monday. She had landed on the nest, and accepted it immediately. "But the next few weeks will be a crucial time for a male to appear. Unfortunately the male last year flew into a wire and was killed."

More than one million people have visited the loch site since it was opened. There are 30 pairs of ospreys in the Scottish Highlands. The population built up from near-extinction in 1914 when the birds were persecuted and preyed upon by egg-collectors.

Drug addicts are given priority for housing

Edinburgh District Council voted yesterday to give priority on the city's housing waiting list to drug addicts who were reforming.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, the housing committee chairman, said that only about a dozen cases would be involved.

The decision was condemned by the Conservative opposition. Mr Paul Martin, the party's leader, said that the menace of drugs might be introduced into parts of the city where it was not a problem.

Housing priority would be given to any drug addicts who claimed to be attempting to give up their addiction. The

Conservatives believed that the drug problem was most successfully handled by voluntary organizations, supported by the council.

They would ask every tenants' association to get in touch with their local councillor if they had any fears about the scheme.

"Those people who have been on the waiting list for many years will be appalled to find they have been jumped over in this way," Mr Martin said.

The ruling Labour group said they were merely putting in writing what had been agreed all-party procedure for the past 18 months.

Nine stranded as sailing ship runs aground

Nine people were stranded early yesterday after a 60-tonne sail training ship, the Robert Gordon, ran aground off the Kent coast.

A Sheerness lifeboat stood by for more than six hours waiting for high tide to free the 70ft vessel, which had wedged itself on a sand bank.

The sailing ship was then towed into Queenborough, on the Isle of Sheppey. The crew was shaken but unhurt.

Mr Robin Castle, the lifeboat cox, said that four people, including two cadets aged 13 and 14, were ferried to land. The rest of the crew stayed on board the vessel.

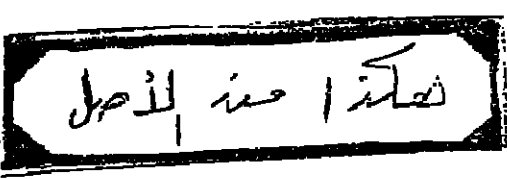
At Torquay, Devon, a Soviet freighter, the Enkolhot, towed two American women to safety after their yacht was dismasted in heavy seas early yesterday.

Scots launch charter on dole reform

Scottish churchmen, trade unionists and councillors claimed yesterday that government plans to reform social security will put more people at risk and have failed to tackle the fundamental causes of poverty in Britain.

They launched a seven-page charter, outlining their own proposals for reform - including the elimination, so far as possible, of means testing - to be sent to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Social Services.

More than 100 organizations have signed the charter, launched at the offices of the Scottish Trades Union Congress. The document claims that there is plenty of evidence that the wealthy gain far more from present inequalities in the system than those in receipt of benefits.



Army joins rescue at site of Mexican air crash

From John Carlin, Mexico City

The Mexican Army joined Red Cross and police rescue teams yesterday in trying to recover the bodies of 166 people, including eight crew members, killed on Monday in Mexico's worst air disaster.

By Monday night only 25 bodies had been recovered from the wreckage of the Mexican Airlines Boeing 777 which crashed into densely wooded mountains in the Sierra Madre, 100 miles west of Mexico City, 20 minutes after take-off from the capital.

The authorities have abandoned all hope of finding survivors and the difficulty of the terrain was thought likely to prolong the rescue work.

Red Cross workers said wreckage was found over a six-mile radius, appearing to substantiate the reports of witnesses that the plane exploded, or caught fire, before crashing.

One Mexican mechanic has suggested there might have been a bomb in the plane, but so far there has been no real clues as to the cause of the disaster, in which 22 children under the age of 12 were killed.

All that is known for certain from the pilot's last radio communication is that the plane began to lose altitude some 10 minutes before the crash. Early yesterday rescue workers were still searching for the plane's black box.

Mexican officials said the pilot had 15,000 hours flying time behind him and the plane, bought in 1981, was one of the newest in a fleet of 39 Boeing 777s.

Mexico's National Union of Aviation Workers has claimed



Rescue workers recovering a body from the mountainside wreckage of the crashed Mexican Boeing while (right) another worker clammers over the tangled remains of part of the jet.



Rome lifts silence ban on theologian

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Vatican confirmed yesterday that it has withdrawn its ban imposing silence on Father Leonardo Boff, the eminent Brazilian theologian and leading exponent of liberation theology.

A Vatican spokesman also said the Holy See would issue on Saturday a major document on liberation theology to help guide local churches in their struggle to promote social justice and human rights.

Liberation theology was developed mainly in Latin America; as a Christian reaction to the area's massive social problems. It has been criticized by Rome, mainly because of its alleged borrowings from Marx.

The Pope himself has shown he distrusts elements in liberation theology and re-

peated his objections last month to a group of Brazilian bishops summoned here for talks.

Some of the bishops were believed to have asked the Pope to free Father Boff from the obligation of silence.

In October, 1984, Father Boff was ordered to Rome by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to answer charges of putting forward "dangerous" doctrines in his latest book, *Church, Charisma and Power*. The following May the Vatican made it known that Father Boff had been instructed to stop publishing his views and not speak in public.

The length of the imposed silence was officially left unspecified but was understood to have been a year.

Acquitted Bulgarian goes home

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A Rome court yesterday removed the last obstacle to the departure from Italy of Mr Sergei Antonov, the Bulgarian airline official acquitted for lack of evidence on Saturday of conspiracy to murder the Pope.

But the same court ruled that two Turks acquitted on the same charge should stay here because the prosecution has appealed against their acquittals.

Mr Antonov left Italy last night. An executive with Balkan Air at the time of his arrest, he left on a Yugoslav flight as his own airline had no flight out of Rome until late in the week.

The prosecution had asked for life imprisonment for Mr Mussa Celebi and Mr Omar Bagci. But in Mr Antonov's case the prosecution did not appeal, as the prosecutor himself had recommended acquittal because of insufficient evidence.

Under Italian law, however, there remained the theoretical possibility of an appeal until April 28, so his departure from the country required a special court ruling before an exit visa could be granted.

Mr Antonov was arrested in November, 1982.

Knesset budget pact fury

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The Knesset has approved a 30.2 billion shekel (£15 billion) budget for the new fiscal year that started yesterday.

The debate and vote on Monday was dismissed by Opposition spokesmen as farcical, after a prior agreement among the coalition parties to support the budget despite reservations by both Labour and Likud ministers.

The deal was reached after a warning by the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres - who left for the US earlier on Monday and was present neither for the debate nor for the vote - that failure to approve the budget before the March 31 deadline would bring down the Government.

The Opposition waived its right to debate its reservations about the budget, which was approved by a simple show of hands with two hours to spare before Mr Peres's deadline.

Observers doubt, however, that it will be implemented easily or that it will be restricted to the figure that was approved.

Members of both parties have reserved the right to continue challenging several items on the revenue side of the budget.

Russia insists it still wants full summit with Reagan

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday declared it was still seeking a full 1986 summit with President Reagan, in addition to the emergency meeting on nuclear test bans proposed by Mr Gorbachov last Saturday and turned down by the White House.

Mr Georgy Kornienko, the influential First Deputy Foreign Minister, told reporters: "Mikhail Gorbachov did not mean that this meeting, if it took place, would supplant the summit meeting which had been agreed upon in Geneva and which would be a visit by Mr Gorbachov to Washington."

The clarification followed widespread suggestions in the West that the surprise offer of an emergency meeting in a European capital had been designed by Moscow to extricate itself from the increasingly elusive second summit commitment made in Geneva last November.

But despite the new statement on Kremlin intentions, there has still been no indication here that any progress has been made in breaking the deadlock between the Soviet Union and the US in fixing a date for Mr Gorbachov's visit to Washington.

Mr Kornienko stressed that the Soviet Union would not agree to any date until the White House guaranteed that concrete agreements on arms control could be expected to emerge from the second summit meeting.

"We should be sure of the constructive outcome of the meeting, and then as far as a date is concerned, any date can be agreeable," he said.

"We do not believe it is feasible to set a date and not to know what would become of it later on."

Mr Kornienko also disclosed yesterday that no diplomatic contacts of any kind had been made for the organizing

practice of announcing diplomatic initiatives, such as the proposed European summit, in advance - a gambit which has caused recent irritation in Washington. "It is up to us to decide what questions should be made public through diplomatic channels, or otherwise."

The Kremlin official revealed that the US had been informed of the contents of Mr Gorbachov's 20-minute speech on Saturday only after it had been broadcast live. "The whole world was told our decision, and after we informed the US," he said.

Headline-grabbing proposals designed to portray the Soviet Union as the more ardent pursuer of peace and disarmament have become the hallmark of Mr Gorbachov's aggressive diplomatic style. Soviet sources say they will continue because they are deemed effective at influencing public opinion.

Leading article, page 13

Democrats jib at Stingers for rebels

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Leading Democrats in the US Congress are worried by President Reagan's decision to send Stinger shoulder-fired missiles to rebels in Angola and Afghanistan under covert aid programmes.

Mr Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, called for an end to covert assistance to the insurgents so that an open aid policy could be considered by the entire Congress.

The United States is known to have given Afghan rebels hundreds of millions of dollars of weapons, including Soviet-made portable missiles bought from international arms dealers and friendly governments.

The Washington Post quoted senior Administration officials at the weekend as saying that Stingers had been sent to rebels in both Afghanistan and Angola during the previous week.

Although the State Department issued its standard refusal to comment publicly about intelligence matters, congressional sources confirmed that the intelligence committees of the House and the Senate had been informed privately of the President's decision.

Mr Reagan has authority to initiate covert programmes, but is required to notify the intelligence committees, which can then indicate approval or disapproval through confidential channels.

Stinger missiles, made by General Dynamics, are relatively easy to operate and are far more accurate and sophisticated than the Russian-made portable missiles the Afghan and Angolan rebels have been receiving. The heat-seeking Stinger has a range of about five miles.

Mr Hamilton has proposed introducing a Bill that would require aid to the Angolan rebels to be open. Covert aid limits discussion to the intelligence committees meeting in secret sessions.

"I do not think it is wise to proceed on these highly controversial foreign policy decisions without the support of Congress," he said in a statement. "This is not a covert action in the ordinary understanding of the term. This is war."

"That is the question: Should the United States enter into support of one side of the war in Angola? It is a far cry from the sort of situation Congress had in mind when it set up the procedure for handling covert operations."

White students say ANC is essential to peace deal

By Our Foreign Staff

A meeting between South African students and members of the banned African National Congress ended yesterday with a joint communiqué which said the talks had been held in the belief that there could "no solution to South Africa's problems without the participation of the ANC."

The talks were the latest in a series of contacts in Zimbabwe and Zambia between the ANC and various South African groups, both black and white, which began in September and have gathered momentum since then, despite government displeasure.

Eight members of the National Union of South African Students held three days of talks over the Easter weekend at a secret venue in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, with senior officials of the ANC.

The NUSAS delegation was led by its president, Mr Brendan Barry, while the ANC team was headed by two

national executive committee members, Mr Mac Maharaj and Mr James Stuart, and included representatives of its Youth League.

Mr Maharaj said that, as a result of the meeting, the ANC now recognized NUSAS as "part of the democratic forces in our country."

Mr Barry said that "possibly for the first time... we have got a full picture of what the ANC positions are and what it hopes to achieve."

He declined to speculate on whether the NUSAS group would face "reincarnations" on their return to South Africa.

NUSAS is open to students of all races, but most of its members are white. It supports many of the political aims of the ANC (though not its use of violence) and of its ally, the United Democratic Front.

The decision to meet the ANC was approved by more than 8,000 students at the four

main English-speaking universities as well as by NUSAS members at Stellenbosch, the oldest Afrikaans university.

Other groups which have held talks with the ANC in recent months include white businessmen, leaders of the opposition Progressive Federal Party, black churchmen, trade unionists and teachers.

Such public contacts with the ANC would have been inconceivable as little as a year ago, and reflect the growing acceptance by whites (and previously politically cautious blacks) of the organization's crucial role in the political debate in South Africa.

In October the Government confiscated the passports of a group of students from Stellenbosch who wanted to meet the ANC in Zambia, though they were able to circumvent this obstacle later.

Since then Pretoria has made surprisingly little effort to stop such contacts.

Gallows likely for arcade bomber

From Michael Horvath, Johannesburg

A black youth was found guilty yesterday of murdering five whites who died in a bomb explosion at a beach-front shopping centre in Amanzimtoti, south of Durban, in December.

The Supreme Court, sitting in the resort of Scottburgh, a few miles to the south of Amanzimtoti, also found Andrew Zondo, aged 19, guilty of attempting to murder other members of the public who were in the shopping centre at the time.

Unless the judge, Mr Justice

R. N. Leon, finds that there were extenuating circumstances, Zondo seems certain to go to the gallows, as the death penalty is mandatory for murder.

In evidence Zondo admitted planting the bomb - a limpet mine left in a rubbish bin - but said he had not intended to kill anyone. He said it was aimed at a South African Airways office in the arcade.

The judge said the court had accepted as having "the ring of truth" the evidence of a state

witness, identified only as Mr X, who said he had acted as Zondo's accomplice. According to Mr X, Zondo told him the bombing was to avenge the deaths of nine people, most of them members of the outlawed African National Congress, killed in a raid on Lesotho by South African commandos.

Zondo allegedly expressed regret to Mr X immediately after the bombing that he had succeeded only in killing four people - a fifth person died in hospital later.

Gadaffi demands war reparations from Britain

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, Libya

In the immediate aftermath of his confrontation with the Americans, Colonel Gadaffi has re-launched a campaign to demand substantial financial reparations from Italy, Britain and Germany for damage and casualties inflicted on Libyans during and after the Second World War.

Brochures produced by the Libyan Government's Studies Centre in Tripoli show photographs of British Eighth Army troops in the desert outside Benghazi, and claim that 14,910 Libyans were mutilated and by landmine planted by the belligerent powers - explosives which still lie over 3,850 square miles of the country.

Colonel Gadaffi specifically raised the reparations issue during a speech in Tripoli on Friday night. He singled out the Italians as being chiefly responsible for Libyan suffering in the first half of this century because of their long, and admittedly, brutal colonialization of the country. Mussolini's repression of Libyan guerrilla opposition came at the end of a period of Italian occupation which, according to the authorities here, cost the lives of 26,980 Libyans, 5,867 of whom were executed by the Italian authorities.

The Libyans, who will put no figure on their claim for reparations, reject the British contention that the Eighth Army liberated the country from the Italians and the Germans. "Television programmes broadcast in Tripoli four days ago portrayed the Second World War in Libya as the transfer of power from one

group of colonialists - the Axis - to another, the British. Britain's evacuation of the RAF base at El Adem 16 years ago has therefore been represented as the final end of colonial rule, brought about, of course, by that well-known revolutionary, Colonel Muammar Gadaffi.

The Italians take the view that they have already fulfilled their obligations by paying out 14 million Libyan dinars in reparations to the pre-revolutionary Libyan Government in 1956. About five years ago, the Italian Government also forwarded to Colonel Gadaffi's regime Second World War maps of Italian Army minefields together with an offer to send Italian bomb disposal teams to clear vast areas of desert which once formed the Axis frontlines. According to the Italian

Embassy here - which says the Libyans are also claiming reparations for farm animals killed in aerial bombings between 1941 and 1942 - the offer was never accepted.

The British Consul in Tripoli says he has received no claims from the Libyans although the Egyptians raised similar issues with the British Government several years ago and obtained photocopies of Mountgomery's Eighth Army frontline maps to guide sappers working on the minefields of El Adem.

The Libyan argument has been put in a straightforward manner by the Studies Centre which says Libyans are still suffering "in consequence of a war that was fought on their land between people who were strangers to it and who - after having struggled against each other for a long time - left

Libya, became reconciled and have become friends".

The formerly belligerent nations, the centre says, "left in Libya the 'souvenir' of their enmity, and this continues to kill our people".

Colonel Gadaffi notwithstanding, Libya's long war against the Italian occupiers is still a matter of great national pride among Libyans. Fading old photographs in the scarcely-visited Museum of Islamic Heritage in Tripoli show the bodies of Italian troops who had been stripped naked with arms stalked out in the desert soon to die of thirst in the 1920s guerrilla war. Other pictures which appear in the recent brochures demanding reparations, depict Libyan peasants being executed by the Italians at a mass hanging in Tripoli.

Spectrum, page 10

Sindona cyanide was in coffee

Milan (Reuters) - Forensic experts confirmed here that the cyanide which killed the Sicilian financier, Michele Sindona, was in a cup of breakfast coffee he drank in jail.

But it was still not known whether he committed suicide or was murdered, the deputy public prosecutor, Signor Giovanni Simoni, said.

Sindona died, aged 65, on March 22, two days after swallowing the cyanide in his cell in a top-security prison in northern Italy and four days after being sentenced to life imprisonment for ordering a contract murder.

Professor Antonio Fornari, one of the scientists who briefed Signor Simoni, said: "Now we know for certain that the plastic cup containing the coffee drunk by Sindona had traces of poison. But we do not know how the cyanide got into the cup."

'Rocky' shock for Soviet girl

Los Angeles (UPI) - The Soviet schoolgirl, Katerina Lycheva, believes that President Reagan will help to ban nuclear weapons. But she says that the United States has shown her an image of Russians created by films like *Rocky II* which is so horrible that even she is scared of the Soviet characters.

"There was not a word that was true in that film," Katya said through an interpreter at a news conference during her peace visit here. "Even the faces of the Soviet people were not the way they really are. Soviet people have friendly, open faces."

Dark at noon

Anchorage, Alaska (AFP) - The Alaskan volcano Augustine, which began erupting last week, blocked out the sun at Homer about 60 miles from here yesterday, forcing the town council to keep streetlights on during the day.

Crash toll up

Maputo (AP) - Five more people have died as a result of Sunday's crash of a Mozambican Air Force Antonov plane, raising the number killed to 49. Three Russians were among the dead.

Short term

Washington (AP) - More than half the convicted murderers released from state prisons in the United States in 1983 spent less than seven years behind bars, a government study reported.

Ferry deaths

Dhaka - At least 38 people were killed when a ferry carrying about 250 passengers capsized near here.

Vallee better

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Rudy Vallee, aged 85, the actor-singer, has shown a marked improvement after surgery to remove a cancerous growth from his throat. He had been in intensive care for two weeks.

Fatal jump

Taipei (UPI) - A 21-year-old love-lorn woman who jumped from the 12th floor in a suicide attempt but hit and killed a food vendor was indicted for manslaughter by negligence.

Everybody out

Zurich (Reuters) - The number of strikes in Switzerland rose by 50 per cent last year. There were three, compared with two in 1984.

IBA INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

Appointment of Contractors for UK DBS

Following the bringing into force of Sections 37-41 of the Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984, the Independent Broadcasting Authority is empowered to provide Direct Broadcasting by Satellite (DBS) television and teletext services for the whole of the United Kingdom under the terms of the Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984 and the Broadcasting Act 1981.

The IBA invites applications for contracts to provide DBS services. The closing date is noon on 29th August. The intention of the IBA is to award contracts by the end of 1986.

Programme contract specifications may be obtained on written request to the Secretary to the Independent Broadcasting Authority, 70 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1EY.

Bryan Rook, Secretary to the Authority. 2nd April 1986.

SAAB THE AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER SAAB NOTHING ON EARTH COMES CLOSE

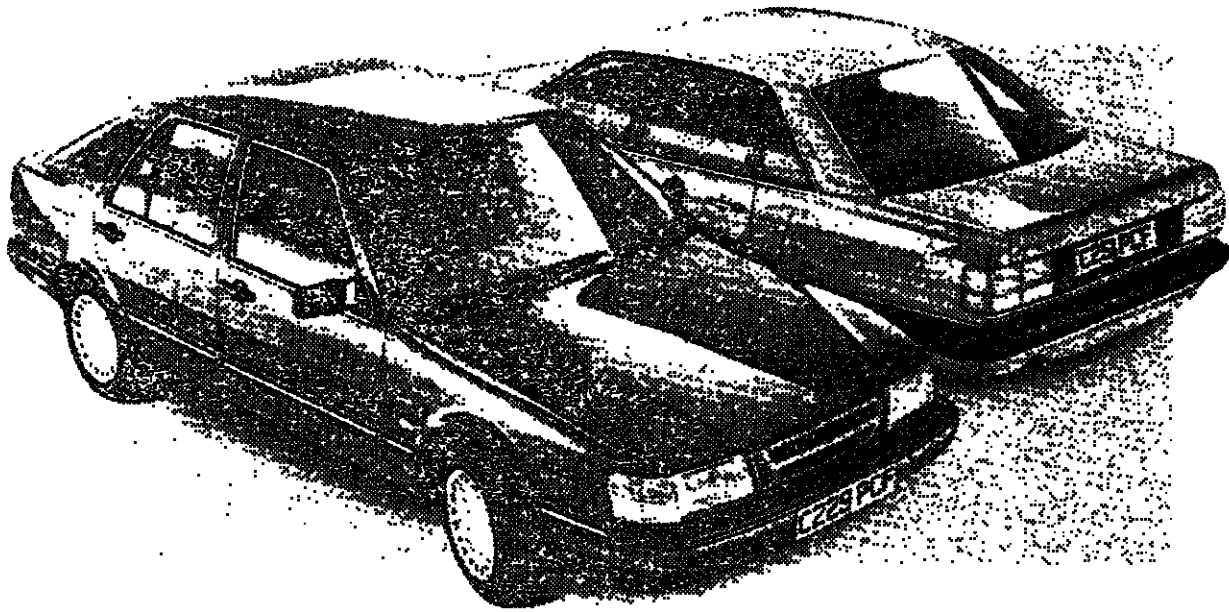
INTRODUCING
THE
CONTENDERS
FOR
YOUR £12,000.

Most Spacious Saloon.

This category provided a real turn-up for the books. The Audi 100, famous for its roominess, came in with a highly respectable EPA figure of 115.4.

Amazingly it was edged out by the shortest car in the class – the Saab 9000i with a cavernous interior measured at 126.

(For the technically minded, the EPA figure is a measurement by laser of the total area within a car, developed in the States.)



Most Comfortable Saloon.

This was an extremely close run affair. MOTOR summed it up thus:

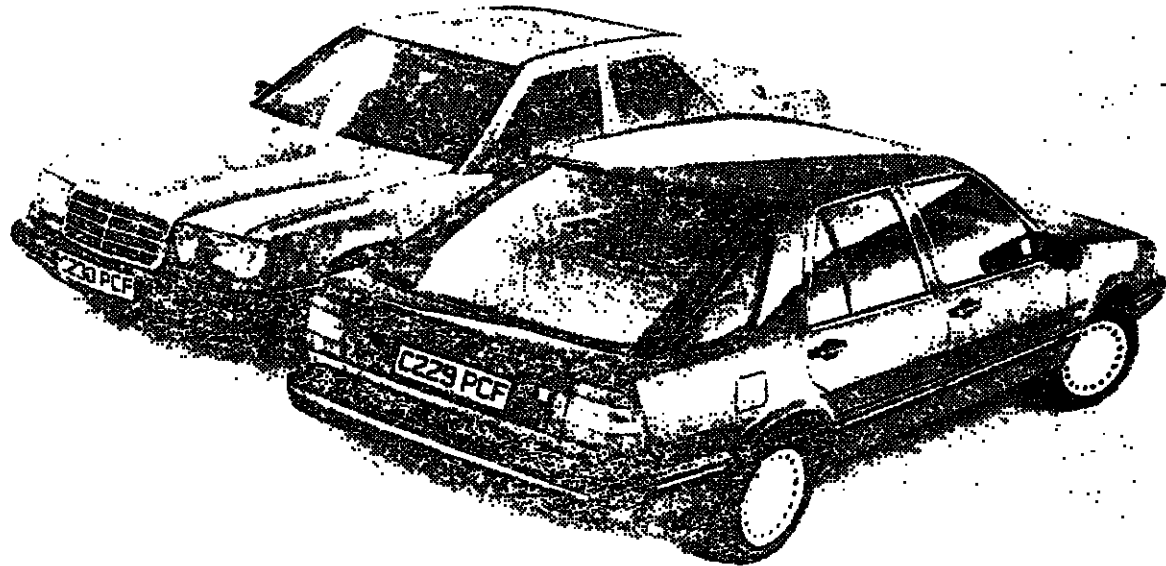
Ride comfort... The 9000's superb suspension control is every bit as good as that of the Mercedes, the standard setter in this class.* A highly honourable draw!

However, take into account Saab's legendary skill at designing seats, and the 9000i is almost unbeatable at carrying up to 5 people in comfort.

Most Fuel Efficient Saloon.

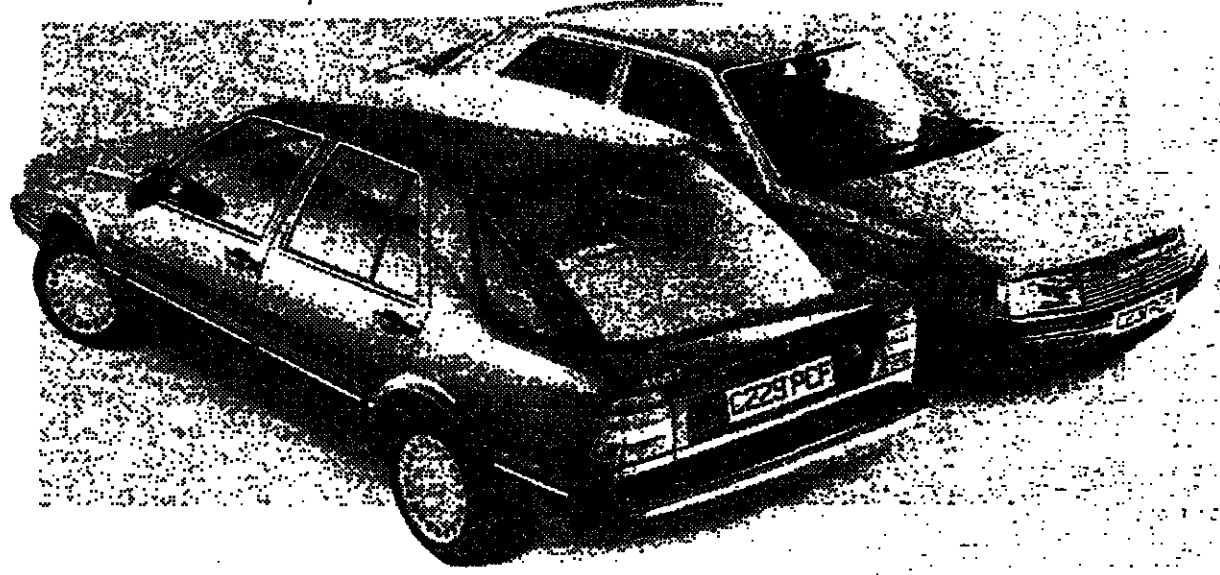
Saab and Mercedes feature strongly once again.

However, at a steady 56 mph, the 9000i achieves 47.9 mpg*



opposed to the Mercedes 200's 46.1[§] – something to do with the Saab's 16 valve engine compared to the Merc's 8 valves, we suspect

Plus the Merc costs £500 more than the Saab, and an extra £1,000 more to achieve the same specification level.



Most Aerodynamic Saloon.

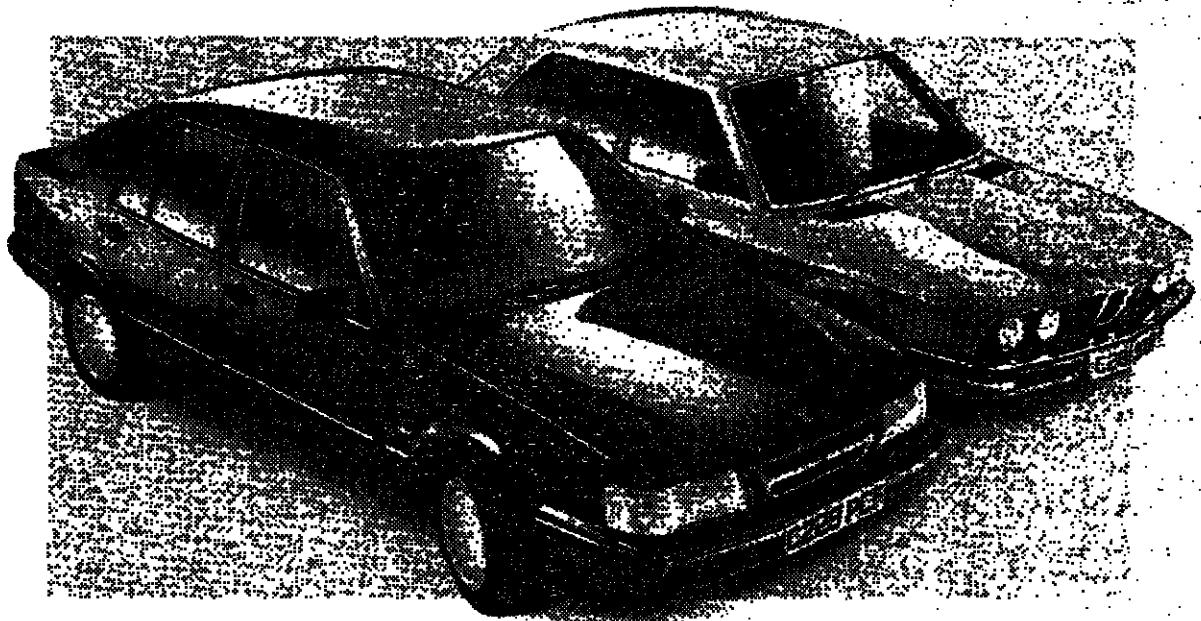
Of all the executive saloons, the Renault 25 range takes top honours with drag coefficient figures between 0.28 and 0.33†

Yet for the customer with up to £12,000 to spend there's a surprise in store.

The Saab 9000i achieves better average fuel economy, with a drag coefficient figure of 0.34† than the comparable Renault 25GTX.§

Best Appointed Saloon.

MOTOR (Nov 16, '85) got quite carried away at this particular point:



The Saab 9000 has a definite air of quality, easily in the class of BMW, and is furnished better than its principal German rivals.*

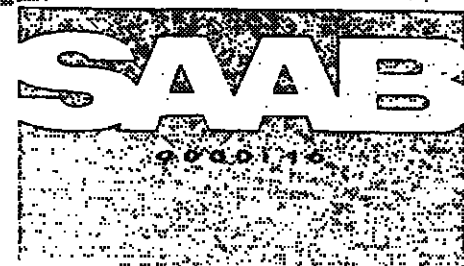
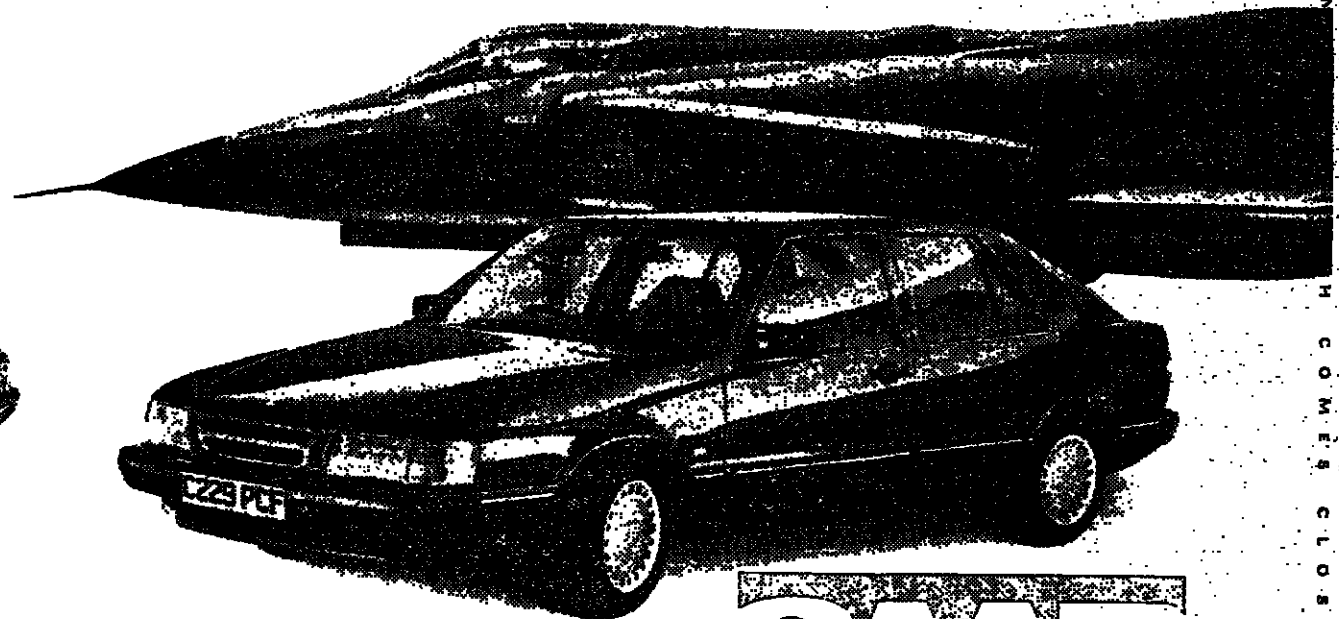
High praise indeed from such a respected journal.

Best Use of Ergonomics.

Here the competition for the Saab 9000i is particularly stiff – the Saab Viggen – the jet aircraft on which the 9000i's controls, instruments and dashboard layout are based.

But there again, the Viggen is outside your price bracket by roughly £7,000,000.

The Saab 9000i for £11,995. For more information and/or a test drive contact Saab on (0272) 217177.



*QUOTES TAKEN FROM 9000 TURBO 16 TEST – 9000 16 SIMILAR SPECIFICATION – MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES. †WHAT CAR? FIGURES. ‡DOT FIGURES (FIGURES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS). MODEL FEATURED SAAB 9000, WITH OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT, PRICE ETC. £23, THE PRICE QUOTED (CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS) INCLUDES FRONT AND REAR SEAT BELTS, CAR TAX AND VAT BUT EXCLUDES DELIVERY, ROAD TAX, AND NUMBER PLATES. §DOT FUEL CONSUMPTION TESTS 9000i: URBAN CYCLE 23.9 MPG, CONSTANT 56 MPH 47.9 MPG, CONSTANT 75 MPH 35.3 MPG. EXPORT ENQUIRIES (01) 409 0990.

هناك من لا يرى

US complains of unfair trading

Transatlantic war of words over quotas heats up

From Richard Owen, Brussels

A heated war of words between the United States and the EEC over trade broke out yesterday with Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC Commissioner for external relations, accusing President Reagan of unfriendly and needlessly aggressive action.

Mr de Clercq's angry statement came after a warning from the White House that it would impose fresh quotas and restrictions on agricultural imports from Western Europe because the enlarged Community of Twelve was discriminating against the United States.

The Americans complain that the EEC has imposed unfair restrictions on the importing of American cereals and oilseeds into Spain and Portugal, which joined the EEC three months ago.

Europe and America are already embroiled in a growing trade war over pasta, citrus fruits and steel products. EEC officials yesterday regretted the rising tone of hostility between Brussels and Washington and said that "personal

contact" between the two sides was being lost in a tide of rhetoric.

Mr de Clercq, currently on a visit to New Zealand, issued a statement saying Mr Reagan's action was difficult to understand since America would derive considerable benefit from EEC enlargement, both politically and in terms of trade. The entry of Spain and Portugal would reinforce the Western alliance. Mr de Clercq said.

Last month Spain voted to stay in Nato in a national referendum, despite strong anti-Americanism in Spain, with many voters persuaded that there was a logical link between Spain's membership of Nato and its entry to the EEC.

Mr de Clercq said the EEC had shown its willingness to negotiate through Gatt, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. But America's "contingent approach" could lead to open commercial conflict.

He said the EEC had always scrupulously observed its Gatt

commitments, and new Iberian farm import rules under which Spain and Portugal buy from their EEC partners were in accordance with transitional accession arrangements.

Unilateral action by Washington would be an unjustified breach of Gatt, and the EEC could not accept such a flagrant violation of world free trade rules, the Commissioner said.

The American retaliatory quotas would bar \$1 billion (\$667 million) of EEC imports from getting into the US. They do not take effect, however, for a month, giving the two sides time to negotiate a compromise. But Washington also objects to new EEC meat inspection regulations which would hit American meat exports to Europe by approximately \$125 million.

The EEC argues that all such measures are offset by potential improved access to Spain and Portugal for American industrial goods as Iberian industrial tariffs drop from 15 per cent to the EEC average of only 5 per cent.

Aquino keeps eight Marcos generals

From Keith Dalton Manila

President Corason Aquino yesterday approved the retirement of 20 generals and 19 colonels in the biggest mass retirement of senior military officers in Philippine history.

The state-run Philippine News Agency, however, said Mrs Aquino agreed to extend for six months the terms of eight generals, including three service chiefs, and three colonels on the recommendation of General Fidel Ramos, the armed forces chief.

The extensions violate her campaign pledge to remove from command all officers who have completed 30 years' service to allow the promotion of junior officers, caught in a backlog created by the deposed President, Mr Ferdinand Marcos, who during his 20-year rule extended for years the service of favoured generals.

Meanwhile, US and Filipino negotiators have agreed to end an 11-day-old strike at US military bases in the Philippines. A seven-point package was yesterday being taken to the 22,000 union members and, if approved, barricades outside the bases would be lifted and work would resume today.

The longest strike ever at American facilities centred around Washington's refusal to agree to workers' demands for severance pay on resignation. The compromise agreement provides optional retirement rates, a \$100 (about £27) "signing bonus" and 100lb of rice every three months.



Two members of the New People's Army show off their weapons just after getting married at a temporary camp of the communist rebels 50 miles north-east of Manila.

In return, US officials agreed not to retaliate against Filipino picketers who had blockaded movement in and out of the bases.

Foreign Ministry sources indicated yesterday that its initial refusal to grant political asylum to Mr Marcos if President Aquino requested it (Richard Wigg writes).

Foreign Ministry sources indicated yesterday that the future of the former dictator lay in the outcome of a visit to Manila by Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, Spain's Foreign Minister, and the first representative of an EEC country to visit the new regime.

Time runs out for fugitives in Spain

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Spain's controversial aliens law, which Madrid could use to expel "undesirable" Britons wanted by Scotland Yard, came into force yesterday, eight months after being promulgated.

It had to be postponed three times because of bureaucratic delays due to insufficient personnel, and expulsion orders issued in a dozen cases against suspected Britons, often months ago, appeared still bogged down.

Señor José Barrionuevo, the Interior Minister, yesterday began a visit to Spain's enclaves on the North African coast, where the attempted application of the aliens law has caused the biggest headaches. There have been disturbances in Melilla, where only 7,000 local Muslims among an estimated 27,000 population have Spanish nationality.

So far only 40,000 foreigners have registered as the law requires. In one important Mediterranean coast region, foreigners anxious to be on the right side of the law were told by the police that no registration forms had arrived.

The Spanish Ombudsman has taken up some of the new law's provisions before the Constitutional Court.

Bulgaria responds to Soviet critics

By Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent

Bulgaria today convenes a Communist Party Congress that will try to answer some of the Soviet Union's sharp complaints about the way that Sofia is running the economy.

It follows a radical shake-up of the state administration, the sacking of several of his colleagues, and the abolition of five important economic ministries.

Eastern Europe is holding its five-yearly Communist congresses in the wake of the Soviet session which charged Mr Gorbachov's economic and political course and held a barrage of criticism of the Brezhnev era.

The Bulgarian leader, Mr Todor Zhivkov, was ranked as the closest friend in the Soviet bloc of Leonid Brezhnev and has been particularly sensitive to grumbling by Moscow, expressed with unusual candour by the Soviet Ambassador to Sofia, about the quality of Bulgarian goods exported to the Soviet Union and the time spent by farmers on their private plots.

A recent reshuffle was supposed to head off further criticism. Above all, it was designed to show that the main fault of the Bulgarians was in the implementation of economic policies - for which the Government is responsible - and not in the overall programme as defined by the party leadership.

Although Mr Zhivkov is 74 and evidently tired, it seems unlikely that he will step down at the congress: some Western analysts suggest that he will do so at a plenary session of the Central Committee at the end of the year.

The changes, late last month, gave some clues as to the emerging leadership generation.

Mr Grisha Filipov has been shifted from the premiership to the Central Committee Secretariat. At 66, and with

long experience in the state and party administration, he is a strong candidate for the succession to the leadership. But the men who are really on the rise are in the Gorbachov generation or even younger.

Mr Georgi Atanasov, the new Prime Minister, is 53. He has a strong scientific background and is well equipped to run the "scientific and technical revolution" in the Bulgarian economy. This is the phrase used throughout the bloc for the new programmes of modernizing the economy, narrowing the technological gap between East and West, and making East European products more competitive with those produced in the West.

The Bulgarian Parliament has now confirmed 44-year-old Mr Stoyan Markov, head of the State Committee of Science and Technology, as First Deputy Prime Minister, and he will be in charge of the broad field of "innovation". The reshuffle, and this week's congress, reveal above all a sensitivity to the needs of Moscow.

The Soviet Union, which supplies almost all of the energy needs of Bulgaria, has been unhappy for some years about the quality of goods it gets in return. Those areas most under attack - mechanical engineering, the chemical industry, energy, communications and metallurgy - have found their ministries simply abolished. It is not altogether clear what structure will replace them.

The trend throughout the Soviet bloc, taking the tune from Moscow, is to make the Communist Party into a more effective control organ of the government. That means making a clear separation between party and government, but the real leadership stars of the future are men who can master both party and government work.

Sofia's victims listed

Amnesty International has the names of more than 100 ethnic Turks allegedly killed by the Bulgarian security authorities during a campaign to force them to take Slav names. The human rights organization says in a report published today (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Some were said to have died while protesting peacefully against the campaign, others when offering violent resistance.

Deaths were also reported among police and troops. Eight were said to have been killed after surrounding a village on December 28, 1984, soon after the four-month-long campaign started.

Amnesty said it had received many reports of ethnic Turks being released from detention only after accepting new names for themselves or their families, and of people being resettled forcibly away from their home areas.

It was still not completely clear why the authorities had moved against a minority estimated at no more than 10 per cent of a total Bulgarian population of nine million.

But Amnesty points out that the ethnic Turks have a much higher birth rate than the majority Slavs.

(Bulgaria: Imprisonment of Ethnic Turks. Amnesty International, 5 Roberts Place, London EC1R 0EF. £2.50 post free.)

Youth shot as protests grip Santiago

Santiago (Reuter) - A masked youth was shot in the leg and a CBS cameraman hit on the head by a tear gas grenade yesterday, during demonstrations in Chile marking the first anniversary of a death squad murder.

Police said 15 people were arrested and later released during the disturbances.

Witnesses said the CBS cameraman, Señor Leopoldo Correa, was struck by a tear gas grenade fired from about 25 yards as a group of journalists protested at the arrest of a colleague. He received stitches.

Cabinet offers resignation to help Uruguay

Montevideo (AP) - The 11 members of the Cabinet offered to resign to allow President Sanguinetti to put into effect a plan to reactivate the economy and strengthen the new democracy in Uruguay.

The action came after news that agreement had been reached between political groups on a three-year plan to revive the economy and streamline administration.

The Cabinet members sent a note to Señor Sanguinetti saying they would abandon their posts to give the President "freedom of action to resolve political questions".

TEST YOUR POWERS OF INDIFFERENCE.

- How many households in the United Kingdom are an old person living alone? 1 in 30 1 in 13 1 in 10 1 in 7
- How many old people have no living relatives? 50,000 100,000 300,000 500,000
- How many old people have no regular visitors? 200,000 450,000 750,000 1,000,000
- How many old people cannot get in and out of bed unaided? 20,000 34,000 70,000 189,000 500,000
- How many old people died in their homes from the cold in 1985? 200 571 1,000 10,512 100,000
- Britain has 1.1 million dwellings statutorily defined as unfit for human habitation. How many are inhabited by old people? 50,000 150,000 250,000 350,000 500,000
- How old was:
 - Winston Churchill when he first became Prime Minister?
 - Michelangelo when he started work on the Sistine Chapel?
- How many centenarians received congratulatory telegrams from the Queen a) in 1965? b) in 1985?
- How many old people depend upon Supplementary Benefit? 1/2 million 1 million 2 million 3 million 4 million 5 million
- What are we doing about it?

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مکتبہ اسلامیہ

Hindu-Sikh fighting flares

Governor of Punjab replaced as Delhi tries to stem violence

Delhi (Reuters, AP) - The Governor of the violence-racked Punjab state was replaced yesterday by a veteran politician as the central Government tried to restore order.

Sources in the Punjab capital of Chandigarh said Mr Shankar Dyal Sharma, in office only three months, was replaced by Mr Sidarth Shankar Ray, a lawyer, former MP and Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1972 to 1977.

Mr Ray, aged 65, has not been actively involved in politics during the 1980s.

Meanwhile, police shot dead two Sikh extremists in Punjab, and a general strike began in Delhi to protest at terrorist killings in the northern state.

The two men were killed in a gunfight with police near Harke Pattan village, about 30 miles south of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, state authorities said.

Hindu-Sikh violence flared in nearby Batala when a curfew was relaxed to allow people to buy provisions.

Police said Sikh militants threw stones at Hindu-owned shops and houses during a demonstration against the beating of a Sikh youth.

Paramilitary troops moved in and the curfew was imposed again.

The Sikhs dispersed after police said they would file assault charges against three Hindus who beat the Sikh youth. But about 400 Hindu women defied the curfew and staged a sit-in outside the police station to demand the three be released.

Batala has been under curfew for more than two weeks. Last week security forces broke a five-day siege of Batala by Sikh villagers, who blocked roads and cut off food and milk to the Hindu-dominated industrial town.

In Delhi yesterday thousands of people heeded a call by opposition parties and moderate Sikh groups for a strike to protest at the violence in Punjab.

Main markets, wholesale trading centres and the stock exchange were closed, and there was less traffic, although public transport was not affected.

The replacement of the Punjab governor yesterday was the second time in three days that a top official in the state had been moved.

On Saturday the Chief Minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, announced the replacement of the state's police chief by the country's most respected law enforcer, Mr Julius Ribeiro, former police chief of Bombay.

The violence threatened the stability of Mr Barnala's moderate Sikh-dominated government and has put pressure on him and the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to restore order to the prosperous state.

At least 104 people were killed last month in Punjab in sectarian violence involving the minority Hindu community, prompting the central Government to flood the state with police reinforcements.

Anti-terror expert Mr Ray, the new governor, had experience in dealing with left-wing terrorists, the Naxalites, when he was Chief Minister of West Bengal (Kuldip Nayyar writes).

His predecessor, Mr Dyal, has been given the governorship of Maharashtra, a bigger state, though it is clear he has been removed for not being effective.

Rebels say they killed two Soviet advisers

Bangkok (AFP) - Khmer Rouge guerrillas yesterday claimed to have killed two Soviet advisers, 72 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded a further 115 Vietnamese in an attack on a Cambodian town.

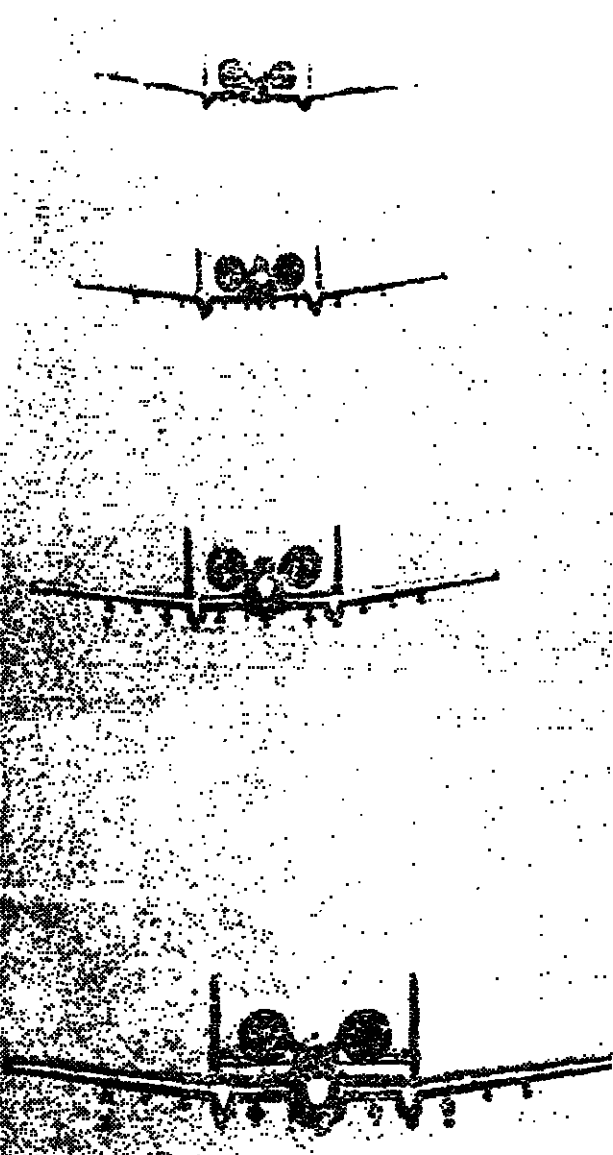
The rebel radio station, in a report monitored here, said that the attack was launched on Friday against Battambang, the largest town in western Cambodia, about 180 miles north-west of Phnom Penh and 45 miles from the Thai border.

One prisoner was taken, according to the Peking-backed Communist faction of the tripartite Cambodian resistance movement. The report indicated that it was one of the biggest offensives yet claimed by the Khmer Rouge.

The guerrillas said they attacked Vietnamese camps defending the town, destroying military equipment, including three tanks.

Khmer Rouge radio also reported attacks on the town of Manang in the south-west of the country and a Vietnamese army base in the eastern province of Kompong Cham.

Rebels also claimed to have killed 52 Vietnamese and wounded 47 last week in an attack on a Vietnamese military convoy in the central province of Kompong Chhnang.



US Air Force A10 Thunderbolts fly over South Korea during joint military exercises between the two countries.

Weinberger gives security pledge to South Koreans

From Our Own Correspondent, Seoul

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday said the security of South Korea was pivotal to the peace and stability of north-east Asia.

Arriving at Seoul's Kimpo airport for the eighteenth annual Korean-American Security Consultative Meeting, he said communist North Korea had reorganized its forces "to move them closer to the demilitarized zone and has obtained more sophisticated equipment from the Soviet Union".

The Defence Secretary, who will visit the demilitarized zone, said the relationship between the US and South Korea was "constantly changing and maturing, as is the threat we face from the North".

"The security of Korea is pivotal to the peace and stability of north-east Asia, and that in turn is vital to the security of the United States."

He said he understood South Korea was increasingly concerned about a threat from the North during the run-up to the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

"I know that the security of those events is of major concern to your Government during the 1986-88 period," he said to his host, Mr Lee Ki

Back, the South Korean Defence Minister.

"I want to assure you that we will do all we can to assist you in ensuring their safety".

It is believed the Koreans will request better early warning systems from Mr Weinberger and will raise the ticklish subject of the more than 80 Hughes 500 anti-tank helicopters illegally exported to the North by a Californian firm last year.

Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives sub-committee on Asian and Pacific affairs is preparing for a series of hearings on South Korea later this month.

Mr Stephen Solarz, chairman of the sub-committee which revealed many aspects of President Marcos's corruption and hidden wealth, both prior to his downfall and since his escape to Honolulu, said he saw the Korean situation as the natural next focus for his committee.

"We'll be looking at the extent to which Korea could become the next Philippines, the potential for instability, the extent to which the United States should get involved in the drive for democracy and whether or not we should encourage direct election of the President," Mr Solarz said.

Sir Geoffrey hits the tourist trail

From Michael Hamlyn, Agra

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, came face to face yesterday with two widely different aspects of India: the magnificence of the Taj Mahal and the poverty of a village of Untouchables.

Before embarking on a series of meetings in Delhi, including a call on Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey flew in his RAF VC10 120 miles south of the capital to the Mogal city of Agra for a little sightseeing.

There he posed like any tourist for his wife's camera in front of the white marble mausoleum built for Emperor Shah Jehan's favourite wife, Mumtaz.

Occasionally some tourists feel let down by the Taj, but not the Howes. "Like Chartres cathedral, it lives up to expectations," Sir Geoffrey told me as we sheltered under a mango tree from the rising morning heat and sipped soft drinks. "The scale, which you don't appreciate from the photographs, and the texture make it better than you expect."

Lady Howe caused a moment of panic among the assembled officials when she realized she had abandoned her handbag while she took her husband's photograph, and a minion was dispatched to retrieve it. It was returned to her, something unlikely to happen to other tourists in similar circumstances.

"I had to give the man who found it a kiss," said the burly official who brought it back to her, dangling it from a limp wrist.

After a speedy trip round the mausoleum, the Foreign Secretary was driven eight miles into the Uttar Pradesh countryside to the village of Chauhatna, where the state government proudly showed

off a village development scheme.

Chauhatna had been cleaned up for the occasion, and lime had been spread at the side of the roads to kill the snails.

Sir Geoffrey was shown a new concrete house built for an Untouchable family with a 6,000 rupee (£350) loan.

While he was being shown the freshly whitewashed houses, a group of Untouchable women - they are on the lowest rung of all in Indian society and are generally referred to as Harijans, or People of God, the name given them by Mahatma Gandhi - peeped from the rooftops, their faces shrouded in their saris as they watched the menfolk pursue the visitors with trumpet and drum.

Sir Geoffrey was asked to lay the foundation stone of a soon-to-be-built community centre. The stone declared that the inauguration had been carried out by "The Honourable Sir Geoffrey".

A yellow turban was put on his head and a tilak, or welcome mark of turmeric and a red powder called kumkum, was placed on his forehead. Pandit Jodhar, the village Brahmin priest, invoked blessings on "Sir Geoffrey" and the stone.

"It is a great honour for me," said Sir Geoffrey, before the pandit interrupted him again with another round of chanting. The pandit was hushed by state officials, and Sir Geoffrey continued, his turban nodding.

Then the Foreign Secretary, the British High Commissioner, and a 15-car convoy of dignitaries drove away in a huge cloud of dust, which settled slowly on the new whitewash in the midday shimmer.

DeLorean ranch goes to lawyer

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Mr Howard Weitzman, a Los Angeles lawyer, has become the owner of the \$2.5 million (£1.7 million) estate of his client, Mr John DeLorean.

Judge Lawrence Irving approved the transfer of the San Diego property as part of the massive legal fees for Mr Weitzman's successful 1984 defence of Mr DeLorean on criminal charges of trafficking in \$24 million of cocaine. Judge Irving ruled that the fees were reasonable.

Mr Weitzman is also defending the designer of the Belfast-made DeLorean sports car on charges of defrauding his DeLorean Motor Company investors of \$18 million.

In approving the transfer of the 48-acre ranch home of Mr DeLorean and his former wife, Cristina, Judge Irving said Mr Weitzman had "pulled off the legal miracle of the century" in winning acquittal for Mr DeLorean.

LA plague of deadly new heroin

Los Angeles - A cheap but often deadly form of heroin is being smuggled over the Mexican border into the United States, according to Los Angeles police (Ivor Davis writes).

Narcotics investigators say the illegal drug, known as "tar" or "black tar" because of its colour and texture, has tripled the number of heroin overdose deaths in Los Angeles in the past few years. Heroin-related emergencies jumped from 1,833 in 1984 to 2,278 last year.

They say that the tar is processed from opium poppy crops by farmers in northern Mexican states and smuggled into the US, mostly by illegal aliens and migrant workers.

It is readily available in some 27 US states and especially in Mexican-American communities. What makes the spread of the often-lethal drug so alarming is its cheapness. A chip the size of a matchstick head costs from \$20 to \$30 (about £13 to £20) and provides up to eight doses.

'Briefcase' firms shut

Peking (Reuters) - China has closed 96,000 firms set up by state or Communist Party agencies in violation of regulations which forbid officials to go into business.

The China Daily reported yesterday that the closures had come in the wake of a nationwide crackdown on corruption, fraud and other economic crimes. The "briefcase companies"

were set up to take advantage of reduced state control over the economy. It was said the children of several leading officials were involved.

The newspaper quoted an official announcement as saying state and party agencies were permitted to run laundries, barber shops, bath houses and other services as long as they were purely for the welfare of their employees.

TEST YOUR POWERS OF COMMITMENT.

(Answers to page seven)

- One household in seven in the UK is an old person living alone.**
Help the Aged funds day centres throughout the country. For many old people, day centres are their only chance of companionship.
- Nearly half a million old people have no living relatives.**
Help the Aged is aiming to place one minibus every week with voluntary groups. For no less than 20,000 old people who already use this service every week, it is a vital link with the community.
- One million old people have no regular visitors.**
Help the Aged's Lifeline Appeal has already placed nearly 1,000 emergency alarm systems in the homes of old people who are vulnerable and at risk.
- 189,000 old people cannot get in and out of bed unaided. 695,000 can't cope with stairs. 757,000 can't bath or shower without help. 1,056,000 can't walk unassisted.**
Help the Aged is funding day hospitals where old people can recover their independence and confidence, after illness or injury.
- Last year, 571 old people died in their homes from hypothermia. This year, the figure will be much higher.**
Besides campaigning for better heating subsidies and better pensions, the day centres we support provide warmth and a hot meal, for some old people their only regular hot meal.
- 500,000 dwellings - nearly half of our most appalling housing - is inhabited by old people; who are least able to cope.**
Help the Aged is campaigning for better housing provision for old people, both in the public and private sectors, because old people aren't "them", they're one in five of us.
- Winston Churchill was 64 when he became Prime Minister. Michelangelo was 71 when he started work on the Sistine Chapel.**
A reminder that being 60+ can be the beginning, not the end of a lifetime's achievements.
- In 1965, 448 centenarians received a congratulatory telegram from the Queen. In 1985, the figure was 1,819.**
Between 1981 and 2001, the number of people aged over 75 will increase from 3.1 million to 4.1 million. More and more of us are going to live to be old. Yet what is in store for us if we let things ride?
- Nearly two million old people depend upon supplementary benefit.**
Put another way, that's one in five pensioners.
- These facts paint a grim picture of what it can mean to be old in Britain today. Help the Aged is dedicated to improving this situation by campaigning for better pensions and heating allowances. Funding Day Centres, Day Hospitals and Hospices. Providing emergency alarm systems and minibuses. To find out more about our work, or if you would like to make a donation, please write to: John Mayo OBE, Director-General, Help the Aged, Freepost, St. James's Walk, London EC1B 1BD.**

Help the Aged 25TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL PATRON: HRH The Princess of Wales.



Waiting for Gadaffi

A British delegation of 16 political activists joined some 700 foreigners — including Louis Farrakhan, the US black separatist — at a recent 'anti-imperialist' seminar in Tripoli. Paul Barker, who attended a similar conference, slipped away from the arena and discovered an outpost of the revolution

Going to conferences with Colonel Gadafi isn't all beer and skittles. It's more like a permanent diet of passionfruit juice.

The British group, from Brighton and elsewhere, may not have learnt to love Libya all that well during their widely-reported conference. Certainly not if my own experience at a similar shindig is anything to go by. I was never so glad to get out of a country in my life. Waiting for the colonel, and ending up under arrest, wasn't much fun.

The invitation turned up one day, without forewarning, in the office post. Would I, as editor of *New Society*, like to be a guest of the revolutionary government at a conference against racism and Zionism?

This was when the diatribes against Israeli racism had just got into full flow at such talking shops as the United Nations. The invitation put me on the spot. I felt very unsympathetic towards the line being put about by Arab diplomats. On top of that, some nasty anti-Semitism, disguised as anti-Zionism, was beginning to surface — from the Left — in British university student unions. I didn't want to find myself used to endorse all this. I didn't endorse it, anyway.

But I was conscious that all the reporting of the Arab case came from sources who were, at that time, almost unequivocally hostile. Wasn't it better to give the other side a chance to put their own case in their own voice? My balancing act stopped when I got a guest-list and it showed, among others, Maxime Rodinson — the distinguished French anti-Zionist, and himself a Jew. If he can go, I thought, then I can. I rang the People's Bureau to accept. The bureau — then in Kensington — hadn't yet started shooting people in the street. It was simply the most chaotic office I'd come across. Democracy at work, no doubt.

Rodinson never did come to the conference, but there was a reasonable sprinkling of "respectable" guests, including various English academics and journalists. So I felt some justification by solidarity.

We were put up in Tripoli's best hotel, and the passionfruit juice began. As a good Muslim state, Libya was "dry". It also seemed to have exported all its chiefs. We had passionfruit juice and lamb stew all day every day. This is, notoriously, not the best way to woo journalists, or even academics.

The conference was in a vast super-cinema. We sat there, day and night, while Arab speaker after Arab speaker got on to the stage and delivered high-flown

assaults against Israel. There was no break, no counter-arguments, no points from the floor. It might have been unwise to argue back, even if you could, given the storm of fraternal applause that greeted every rhetorical flourish.

Along with Israel, the speakers linked South Africa and Iran (this was before the Shah fell) into one huge anti-Arab conspiracy. It was all the doing of the CIA and the Jews of Johannesburg, in un-Koranic alliance.

We shook our heads about all this, over the lamb stew and passionfruit juice — and waited for Gadaffi. Every day he was supposed to be coming to address us. Every day, the epiphany was postponed. And the unsuccessful brainwashing went on.

I decided I would get something enjoyable out of coming to Libya, even if I wasn't getting anything useful. Further down the coast lay the big Roman site of Leptis Magna — an imperial port now dried up and in ruins. I would play hooky from the super-cinema and go there. I found the only hire car in Tripoli and finally, on the last morning of the conference, set off. Gadaffi was still expected hourly, so the only other conference-goer I could tempt to come with me was a young researcher from St Antony's College, Oxford. Under blazing sun and over heavily rutted roads, we bounced off towards Leptis.

At the gateway to the site, an attendant sleepily sold me a guidebook to the ruins, written in a sort of English. The frontispiece was torn out, but you could work out that it had been a photograph of King Idris — the ruler the British left behind them after their brief post-war mandate. Gadaffi had overturned Idris's regime, but had kept the guidebooks. Frugal thinking.

Leptis was the most impressive classical ruin I had seen. Columns and friezes were scattered over the dry land, with the Mediterranean as blue as a postcard in the background.

But it was very hot. Time, really, for a mid-afternoon siesta. My colleague decided to call it a day in the shade of a thorn-bush to have a doze. This culture-vulture strode on, guidebook in hand, determined to see the dwindled *wadi* where the old Roman port had been.

As I came down the hill towards it, I saw why the harbour was now useless. There was a sand bar across the street. On the other side stood a small temple — all as the map in the guidebook showed. I decided to walk over the sand bar to look at it before going back.

The temple seemed to be shored up with breeze-block, I noticed as



I got nearer. Really, I thought, these archaeologists are vandals: they should be more careful with their restoration work. But everything became clearer when I stepped off the sand bar on to the other shore. A man came out from the temple with an automatic rifle in what looked like British army-issue uniform. He pointed at me and shouted what I immediately translated as "Halt".

I halted. Another soldier came out from the temple bucking on his British-style belt. This was the sergeant. Both he and sentry seemed very cross — and not just because I'd interrupted their siesta. They took my guidebook.

Because it was so hot, I thought I'd rather stand in the shade of the temple. But the rifle waved ominously when I tried to budge. Eventually I negotiated the move with the sergeant in sign language.

He left me under guard and went back into the temple. I heard him on the field telephone. In due course, the captain drove up. He had a few words of English. They had now found my companion and were guarding him by the thorn-bush.

Back to the field telephone, and at last another pick-up truck. A sleepy surgeon had been roused. He spoke English and was friendly, but wary. I said we were guests of the government at the Tripoli conference. He said that, fortunately, the captain had read about the conference in the

newspaper and was impressed. It was a good thing we had no cameras, and no guns; otherwise there would be no alternative to arrest. We were in a military zone.

We had to have a strong story to persuade them to let us go. I convinced them I had got the map at the front office. It was too old to show the military zone, and no, I hadn't seen the notice further up the wadi. I over-explained my feeling for classical ruins. Eventually the captain looked convinced and took to the telephone.

We were shepherded back to the gateway to my Volkswagen, and we set off back to Tripoli. I drove as fast as I could — though the road was full of tomato lorries, delivering loads to the canning factories. I hoped we wouldn't be missed.

I parked behind the super-cinema. It was the end of the afternoon. There was a gaggle of delegates and officials in the lobby as we went in. Gadaffi was coming! We hadn't even lost out on this. He walked us into the lobby — a film star of the revolution. He was bright and slim in a safari suit. He was like the lead in *The Desert Song*. The fraternal delegates clustered round him like autograph-hunters. Libya had money to spend, after all, on all kinds of activities. Perhaps now was the time to catch Gadaffi's ear.

But he broke away, plunged up the aisle — and then stopped short of the stage. He sat down in the

As a good democrat, the colonel was only waiting to be sure he was wanted. He was, they assured him

'There was no break, no points from the floor. It might have been unwise to answer back'

front row of the stalls. The welcoming party on the platform were visibly flustered. But as a good democrat, the colonel was only waiting to be sure he was wanted. He was, they assured him. No move. They assured him again — and this time he climbed the steps, took the microphone, and spoke.

The speech was the mixture as before — though less verbose — and it embodied Gadaffi's vision of peace. A peace without Israel. International capitalists, all got featured billing once more.

The colonel went even more rapidly than he'd come. Down the aisle and he'd to the official limousine. His fans crowded round for a last farewell.

We English delegates meanwhile had realized that the fact that we had got only an outward-bound ticket might be no mere formality. We had had to ask after return tickets every evening — following the lamb and passionfruit juice — from the small, surly officials. (One of the odd things about Libyans, I noticed, was that they were a very agreeable people — until they got into a uniform.) We began to worry whether we'd ever be allowed to leave.

We got the tickets at the very last minute. At the ramshackle, overcrowded airport, the same palaver of Third World officialdom continued. We might be a party of government guests, but all the minutiae of visa-checking, ticket-checking and the rest would still be done as slowly and insufferably as possible. It was boiling hot. There was, of course, no bar.

The plane, when we got on it, was British Caledonian. We fell up the steps in our haste to leave Libyan soil. It was a delight to see the homely stewardesses in those silly tartan outfits — uniforms not taken seriously. There was a huge feeling of relief. No more brainwashing, no more Libyan officials, and in my case, no more Libyan arrests.

The drinking began. Most of the men who were on the plane with us were from the oilfields out in the desert. The man next to me

was from Ulster. He was doing a stint to earn enough money to get out of Northern Ireland because he thought he wouldn't be able to sell his house in the Belfast suburbs for very much. He was scathing about Libyan petty officialdom in the desert too.

It struck me that the atmosphere in the plane reminded me of something. Especially with those tartan stewardesses, and the drink, it was just like a football coach (old-style). There was an overwhelming air of friendliness and escape.

No conference, we agreed among ourselves, could have been more counter-productive. No one's mind had been swung towards the Arab line on Zionism as racism. And then there was all that obvious conspiracy-theory about Iran, the CIA, and South Africa! But at least I'd been to Libya, and heard the case I'd gone to hear. And I'd seen Leptis.

The only thing is that, as time passed, and the Shah fell, and Israel's policies on the West Bank hardened, and the Lebanon invasion was launched, I began to realize that, as a matter of fact, much of what those Arab delegates had been saying — in their unacceptably doctrinaire and rhetorical way — was right.

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Paul Barker was Editor of *New Society* from 1968 until this year.

A watchful eye on the neighbourhood

How far should untrained people be allowed to go in defence of their communities?

Peter Evans and Alan Franks examine the growth of urban vigilante groups and their often uneasy relations with the police

If the British remain true to their reputation and continue to follow the American precedent, it will not be long before we have our own *Bernhardt Goetz* — the 38-year-old New Yorker who achieved fleeting status as a national hero after shooting four would-be muggers on the city's subway 18 months ago.

In England, even though the very word vigilante remains effectively outlawed by a police force fearful of having its powers undermined by untrained and partisan elements of society, there is growing evidence of the spread of informal militia patrolling inner city streets to protect the property and personal safety of ethnic minorities.

Their actions are not restricted to the deterrence of racist crime. In the Birmingham suburb of Moseley, for example, residents have taken to the streets to drive away a plague of prostitutes and kerb crawlers. Mr Sean Wheatley, chairman of the North Moseley Action Group, is adamant that the function of his members is pre-emptive rather than retaliatory.

It is a community beset by problems of schoolgirls "on the game". Part of the trouble is that some prostitutes in the nearby suburb of Balsall Heath allegedly dress in school uniform to attract the "kinky" end of the market, with the result that bona fide schoolgirls, some of whom are no more than 11 years old, find themselves at risk.

One girl, Nahide Emin, now aged 16, claims it was five years ago that she was first

accosted by a kerb crawler. "Men in suits and posh cars have approached me more often than common men in old cars", she says.

Some members of the action group have been attacked while on duty, apparently by men arriving to protect the prostitutes. On one occasion Mr Wheatley needed hospital treatment after his eyes had been blackened and his glasses broken by one such assailant.

"We realized when we embarked on this that it was fraught with a certain amount of danger", he admits. "We were interfering with a trade that involved a lot of money."

There is now a breed of vigilante not content merely to inform on the offender but prepared to dispense ready justice on the spot. Yet the forces against which they are ranged are huge indeed. Last year one prostitute admitted to earning £35,000 a year.

When *The Times* accompanied the Moseley group on night patrol, 35 residents turned out. Earlier in the evening members had moved two prostitutes on and by the time we made our tour the streets were almost deserted. Mr Wheatley cited this as proof of the group's effectiveness. A few years ago, he maintained, his vigilantes had logged 1,700 kerb crawlers between the hours of 9 and 11.30pm.

Police forces complain that patrols can hamper their work — in the words of local superintendent David Blegg:



On patrol: the Pakistan Welfare Society in east London

"There is little point in officers being there because their observations are impeded". On the other hand, the very existence of a critical, and often highly vocal, band of neighbours raises the public profile of the offences in question.

In April last year a special police squad in Balsall Heath and Moseley was increased from eight men to 16 and police reckon that since then the number of prostitutes soliciting in the area has dropped from 100 to 50. At the same time, the number of arrests has inevitably risen: 167 in January alone compared with one seventh that figure 12 months previously.

The police point out that although such statistics may give the impression of greater lawlessness, they are in fact proof of better surveillance. In Walthamstow, east London, part of the community faces a sterner menace — racial violence. The soberly-named Pakistan Welfare Society, essentially another vigilante group, estimates that there

have been 28 attacks on immigrant homes in the Walthamstow and Leyton areas since 1979.

All the attacks follow a common pattern — incendiary devices put through the letter box. The worst occurred in 1981 when four people died in a blaze.

Dr Zafar Malik, president of the society, which can muster up to 100 volunteers on any given evening, insists it is composed of mature, family people whose intention is never to take the law into their own hands. "Their presence is a deterrent. A patrol once came across a couple of skinheads attacking an elderly Asian lady with racialist taunts. The patrol told them to behave and they withdrew."

That, however, begs the question of what might have happened had the skinheads not withdrawn. "I don't object to groups being formed provided they understand the guidelines within which they should work", says deputy

assistant commissioner Michael Richards, who is in charge of the force for the area that includes Waltham Forest.

"If they have formed an organization to look after the aged and the sick who might be victims of attacks, that falls within the concept of Neighbourhood Watch. I would be against vigilantes."

Neighbourhood Watch is the name given by the police to a programme of surveillance, under the guidance of the police and in which the citizens become the force's auxiliary eyes and ears. This has proved so popular that there are now 3,770 watches in London's Metropolitan Police area alone. If anything is guaranteed to raise the hackles of a police spokesman, it is to confuse vigilantes with Neighbourhood Watches.

Yet there are creatures who occupy the middle ground between the two. For example, the 24 amateur crime-busters who in January were paid a total of £167,000 by the Manpower Services Commission to clean up the vandal-ridden villages of Poulton and Fernhead in Cheshire. Even though their role was limited to keeping their eyes open and reporting anything suspicious, it was hard to refute the definition of vigilantes as they donned their second-hand police uniforms and zoomed off on their night beat in radio-equipped Metros.

On that occasion it was not the police who objected but the Labour MP for Walsall, George Bruce. "An appalling development" was his verdict. "People are taking the law into their own hands without the benefit of the training given to police." The objections go beyond the mere charge of amateurism, for as these groups become more numerous there is a growing feeling that society should not allow itself to be policed on the cheap.

In America, vigilantism is a well established fact. It was first reflected, and then fuelled, by films like *The Death Wish* series and *Star Chamber*. It has also acquired a measure of unashamed glamour with freelance groups like the self-christened Magnificent 13, who managed to restore law and order to the "Muggers' Express", the Number 4 IRT train between Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Such a thing has yet to happen here but we are getting there by degrees. Three years ago a former bus driver opened a one-man security business in the small Norfolk market town of Watton, charging High Street premises £3.65 for a regular inspection of their premises in the wake of a spate of burglaries. In that case, however, he won not only the approval but the blessing of the seriously overstretched police force.

The town of Ellesmere Port has a 74-strong patrol with a fleet of seven cars. Based at the Royal British Legion Training Centre and also funded by a MSC, it provides work for a number of the young, long-term unemployed of the town, at a wage of about £16 for an eight-hour shift. They patrol the schools, municipal buildings, halls and community centres of Ellesmere Port and neighbouring Neston, often giving police an early warning of anything suspicious.

Joe Clowes, who manages the centre, is as sensitive as Scotland Yard is about the "vigilante" tag. "They have no powers", he emphasizes. "No more than the ordinary citizen. The patrol members tend to be at least 19 years old, but in the main they are older than that. You see, if you were to send out 'virgins', there would always be the danger that they could actually attract trouble."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 914)

ACROSS
1 Fertile (6)
4 Cocktail tithi (6)
7 Sandmound (4)
8 Weirness (8)
9 Pass on (8)
13 High spirits (3)
16 Limestone (13)
17 Craze (3)
19 Timetable (8)
24 Underground cemetery (8)
25 Counterfoil (4)
26 Purplish-red (6)
27 Say again (6)

DOWN
1 Lose colour (4)
2 Engineered (9)
3 Remains (5)
4 Wispy clouds (5)
5 Columbus ship (4)
6 Out of date (5)
10 Nuzzles (5)
11 Gaiety (5)
12 Typewritten (5)

13 Sequin (9) 20 Blow (5)
14 Bouncing stick (4) 21 Glowing coal (5)
15 Distinct identity (4) 22 Den (4)
18 Use (5) 23 Adjoin (4)

SOLUTION TO No 913
ACROSS: 1 Amoral 5 Dope 8 Hefty 9 Extreme 11 Twilight 13 Help 15 Unprecedented 17 Dire 18 Assemble 21 Yew tree 22 Tact 23 Ode 24 Nature
DOWN: 2 Muff 3 Ray 4 Lichtenstein 5 Data 6 Pretzel 7 Whin Sunday 10 Expedience 12 Ixob 14 Merc 16 Periwig 19 Boxer 20 True 22 Tit

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

'Our relationship has turned round. Sometimes mother calls me Mum'

Jean Wyatt is one of the many married people who are now learning how to live with their elderly parents. Sally Brompton reports

Caring for an ageing mother or father when you have a family of your own is the ultimate test of what is possibly the most complicated of human relationships. Indeed, taking in a widowed and often ailing parent is frequently the biggest and hardest decision in many couples' married lives. And it can be as much of a problem for the parents, forced to adjust to their own loss of independence and the inevitable role reversal. When married women give up work to care for disabled parents, the European Commission believes they should get an invalid care allowance, as married men already do. But the commission's decision merely highlights one aspect of the problem. "Money can buy a respite but it can't ease a difficult relationship", says Jill Pitkeathley, newly-appointed director of the National Council for Carers and their Elderly Dependents. "Most married couples who decide to care for an ageing parent have no idea of the kind of stresses it is going to put on their own relationship. Apart from the sheer physical and practical strain, there is also the emotional strain of having to look after your querulous and demanding mother as well as keeping a good relationship going

with your husband and maybe your teenage children. The competition for carers' time is tremendous." The main difficulty confronting the children of the elderly is that acceptable alternatives to looking after them themselves are few and expensive. Most people are reluctant to institutionalize parents and, in fact, only 5 per cent of Britain's elderly are currently in institutions. Granny flats can offer a satisfactory solution to those who can afford them. Sheltered housing is also growing popular - both private and local authority funded - providing the privacy of individual apartments with shared communal facilities, alarm systems and resident wardens. Barratt, whose 11 retirement developments offer one and two-bedroom apartments ranging in price from £26,000 to £70,000, say they are selling well. "Jill Pitkeathley believes that the Government should put considerably more money into caring for the elderly in the community. "We need more district nurses, more voluntary services and more respite care where dependants can be taken into a hospital or community ward for a fortnight to give the carer a rest from them", she says. Even so, she admits that for every one disastrous case, "you can find eight or nine successes". Clare Pryor always vowed that whatever happened she would never live with her daughter, Jean. When she was forced to do so six years ago, following the death of her son with whom she lived, it caused trauma all round. "I hadn't wanted her to come and she didn't want to be here and initially it was a big battle", admits Jean Wyatt. "It took us both quite a while to accept it."

Now 88 and suffering from Parkinson's disease, Clare Pryor, widowed as the result of World War I, can do nothing for herself and needs 24-hour care. For the past six years her daughter, married to John, a United Reformed Church minister has devoted herself to providing that care. "I'd already given up my job as a school secretary", says Jean, who has four

grown-up children. "I had no high-powered career to sacrifice. Now this is my job. I'm a carer. I get a £20-a-week attendance allowance. This is my life." To begin with, however, it was not so clear-cut. Jean had many outside interests - "I was out most of the time", she recalls, "and when another came it was a completely different life. She kept saying 'you're keeping me a prisoner' and I wanted to say 'you're keeping me a prisoner'." For the first nine months, Jean never left the house apart from a swift weekly visit to the local supermarket. Money was not a problem because, as well as the proceeds from her house, her mother had her widow's pension and her son's pension. "It took me a long time to understand that I could spend my mother's money on nursing", says Jean. She now pays an agency nurse to come in every evening to put her mother to bed, the district nurse gets her up and washes her every morning, the NHS's incontinence service delivers and collects "disposable everything" once a week and Jean allows herself the occasional afternoon off. "Our relationship has turned round. I'm the boss in this house. Sometimes my mother calls me 'Mum'."

When Andrew White's mother moved in with him, his wife Pat and their three children aged 22, nine and seven, it was inevitable that clashes would occur. Kay White was - and still is - an active, outspoken and independent widow with a strong mind of her own and a Victorian outlook on life. Pat, now 42, is an easy-going modern-minded mother, determined not to be overpowered in her own home. That was eight years ago. Today the family agrees that, despite the initial problems, things have more or less worked out. Kay White, now 80, has her own flat in the Dublin bungalow from which Andrew runs his egg packaging and distributing business. She



Full house: John Wyatt with his wife Jean (right) and her mother Clare Pryor

cats all her meals with the family but insists that she does not interfere in their lives. "But what she calls interfering and what we call interfering are two different things", says Andrew ruefully. To begin with there were what Pat describes as "the usual problems - little things that turn into big things". She found herself continually having to keep the peace between her mother-in-law and her children. Things are better now. Pat also got used to her mother-in-law telling her how things should be done. "I'm not the sort of person who jumps up after a meal and washes the dishes immediately", says Pat. "She is."

She finds it harder to accept the way Kay fusses over Andrew - especially after he and Pat have had a row. Andrew agrees. "She still treats me very much like a little boy and it gets on my nerves." Pat finds that she and her mother-in-law get on better when Andrew is away. Unable to leave Kay alone in the house, Pat and Andrew last year took separate holidays - Pat in Spain with her sister, Andrew in London with his son. "There's a definite strain attached to her living with us", says Pat. "You're very conscious of the fact that she is there all the time. We didn't really think about the reality of it beforehand and if we had I don't think we would have gone ahead."

It was Keith Ramsbottom's idea to invite his father-in-law, Wilfred James, to live with him and his wife, Anne. "I don't think I would have dared to suggest it myself", Anne admits. "It isn't easy to do if it's your parent." Her mother had died six months earlier and it was obvious to Keith and Anne, both in their early 50s, that her father would not be able to cope on his own despite being in reasonably good health; his Parkinson's disease, arthritis and cataracts are all mild. Their own house was not large enough to allow them all sufficient independence, so they changed it for a three-bedroomed bungalow near Stratford-upon-Avon with a four-car garage which they converted into a self-contained flat for less than £20,000. "I think we are very very lucky", agrees Anne, whose husband runs his own small printing business. "It works well because father can be separate without being isolated. And he's very good if we have any expenses - he always insists on paying his share."

Now 87, Wilfred spends his days pottering around his new home with his own patio. He prepares his own breakfast and lunch, operates his own washing machine and grows tomatoes and runner beans. His daughter does his shopping and takes him a cooked meal every evening and on Sundays he joins Anne and Keith, who have two married children, for lunch.

An only daughter, Elsie Evans was delighted when her husband Ronald first suggested that her mother, who is now almost 93, should move closer to them after she was widowed five years ago. After four years sharing their four-bedroomed house in Winchmore Hill, north London, neither Elsie nor Ronald would claim that it has been anything other than a disaster. "The worst thing is the lack of freedom", says Elsie, who is 65. "She hates us going out and always wants to know what time we'll be back. It's just like being a child again."

"We can't go and stay with our friends because we can't leave her alone. Every time we go away we have to put her in an old people's home which costs more than £200 a week."

The fact that Ronald is due to retire from his job as a chartered quantity surveyor later this year worries them both. "I don't know what will happen then", Elsie says. "It's a question of loyalties", says Ronald. "To me she's a mother-in-law but to Elsie she's a mother and sometimes I feel they're like two peas in a pod. It would be all right if she would hang about in her own room but you can't expect her to do that and everywhere I go I trip over her."

"We've got to get the NHS to help us to get some facility arranged to get her out of the house. Otherwise I could be dead before she is."

TALKBACK

No hard graft

From Mrs Kathy Ridges, Vale Road, Battle, East Sussex Your series "Like mother, like daughter" (Spectrum, March 25) brings to mind some curious twists. To be fair, the women's liberation movement, when it was going, always claimed that women's liberation was men's liberation too. The daydream of Ms Alice Scott, "I had this really romantic picture of me sitting in a big garden and my husband coming home from work..." may fall upon liberated male ears; he might suggest she does the grafting while he sits in the garden.

From Maureen Green, Rosendale Road, Dulwich, London SE21 Bel Mooney's repetition of the alarmist and inaccurate notion that "poor mothers mean violent and disruptive boy children" is unfortunate. Research backs folk wisdom in suggesting it is poor fathers who impede the growth towards social cooperation of their sons.

The decline of the father role which I outlined in *Goodbye Father* (Routledge) has produced a situation where just under two million children live in one-parent families and many more in families where father is only a material asset. The problem is self-perpetuating: the poorly fathered have difficulty in working out what a father is for when they come to the experience themselves.

From R. Le Grove, Manor Gardens, Saxmundham, Suffolk Sheila, Lady Bernard and Mary C. Smith are both too sweeping in their criticisms of Patricia Clough's "Love Begins at 60" (Friday Page, March 7). If there is a spark of love which can be kept alive by genuine effort, fair enough, but supposing true love was absent from the start?

Couples who stay together in a wasteland of existence to see their offspring safely into adulthood have already shown many years of unselfish fortitude and courage. Why condemn them if, when their responsibilities are at last at an end, they try to snatch what little happiness might yet remain to them?

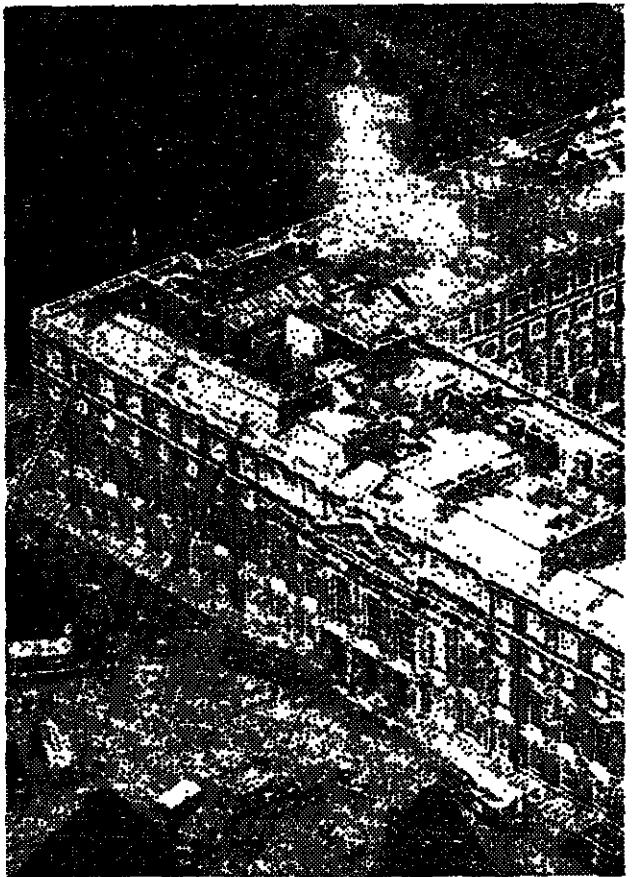
Vertical text on the right margin, likely from another page or a sidebar, containing various small snippets and fragments of text.

Royal homes for the favoured few

Inside Britain's palaces, a small, privileged group of tenants are living rent-free by royal consent.



One of Hampton Court's 27 grace and favour apartments (left) and the wing damaged by fire on Monday



Repairs carried out with public funds

Live rent-free, they still have to pay for electricity and heating at normal rates. Grace and favour flats have often been put at the disposal of the royal family's more distant relations, a great many of whom seem to have suffered upheaval and dispossession in their own lands. The Duke of Edinburgh's mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, banished with her husband from Greece in 1922, took holy orders and lived most of her old age as a virtual recluse in a flat in Buckingham Palace, where she died in 1969, an almost forgotten figure. It is reasonable to assume that prospective tenants have to convince the Queen that they have nowhere else to live, or are in reduced circumstances. Having won the royal favour, they can expect to occupy the apartment for the rest of their lives. There is no rent, and as they are generally parts of royal palaces, which are historic monuments, essential repairs are carried out with public funds from the Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency. In a typical year the agency will spend about £5 million on maintenance of the royal palaces, considerably more if major works are to be carried out. Care of the apartment's interior and any redecoration is normally the responsibility of the occupant, but Buckingham Palace points out discreetly that each tenancy is an individual, private agreement between tenant and monarch.

Advertisement for Victoria Wine of the Month, featuring Liebfraumilch Rheinhesen. It includes a picture of a wine glass and text describing the wine's quality and price (£1.79 per bottle). The ad also mentions 'THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY' and 'ALAN HAMILTON'.

Hidden in the depths of Britain's royal palaces, up the back stairs where the public never go, are a total of 128 highly desirable residences free of rent and with views that are, to say the least, privileged. They range from 35-room palace wings to two-roomed apartments, and they are highly sought after, but they will not be found on any estate agent's books. Grace and favour residences are what the name implies, who lives in them is the decision of the Queen, and she can nominate whoever she wishes as tenants. Those favoured with the royal grace can count themselves extremely fortunate. There are 27 flats at Hampton Court, 20 in St James's Palace, 13 at Kensington Palace, a small number at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, and the rest scattered throughout the country, including one in the New Town of Edinburgh given to the Queen by the city council at the time of her Coronation. The greatest concentration of top-grade grace and favour-residences is in Kensington Palace, home to the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. One of the largest is a section of St James's Palace known as York House, occu-

occupied by Lord Kitchener during the First World War, and by the Duke of Windsor, both as Prince of Wales and for most of his brief reign as Edward VIII. It is now the London home of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, who at weekends can escape to their other grace and favour home, Anmer Hall on the royal estate at Sandringham. Demand for residences is great, and likely to increase. In the coming months a home will have to be found for the married Prince Andrew, who

currently lives with his parents in Buckingham Palace. And Prince Edward and the Princes William and Harry will all be looking for homes in due course. Most grace and favour residences, however, are much more modest and are not occupied by the Queen's immediate family. Tenants are generally retired or sometimes still active members of the royal household or, as in the case of the ill-fated flat at Hampton Court, retired senior officers from the services. There are several splendid residences for admirals within Wren's Royal Naval College at Greenwich. Among the clusters of grace and favour residences, those at Hampton Court are something of a special case. Traditionally, they have been occupied by retired officers or their widows rather than personal friends of the Queen; since 1972 no new tenants have been taken in at Hampton Court and those remaining are all elderly. Unusually, a number of the Hampton Court flats lie empty. There has long been disquiet about the suitability of such accommodation for the very elderly, and a recent study of the problem has even raised the possibility of the Hampton Court apartments being let commercially. Although a daily house-keeper looks after the grace and favour residents, there is a growing feeling that such occupants would be much better off in accommodation tailor-made for the elderly. And living in them is not necessarily as cheap as it appears for those on a pension; although they

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THE TIMES DIARY

Batting for Britain

Fearing I suspect, a diplomatic incident... Trade and Industry Minister Geoffrey Pattie and the British High Commissioner in Barbados, Sir Giles Bullard, have become involved in the Graham Gooch apartheid controversy.

Riding high

Now that the General Motors deal is off, the Land Rover-sponsored Captain Mark Phillips will be saved the embarrassment of passing round a begging bowl at the Badminton horse trials next week.

Extract from the Hungarian visa application form: 'Name... First name... Maiden name... Occupation... For important information see backside.'

Exclusive

'It has been my ambition', writes Donald Flory, 'since I started the St George's Church, Cambridge, parish newspaper 23 years ago, to have a mention in the Times Diary.'

BARRY FANTONI



'It's taken 100 years, comrades, but we've finally caught up'

Self-help

Liberals in Liverpool are spitting blood over a stall that has appeared on successive Saturdays in the city centre appealing for donations to help Labour councillors take their case against surcharge to the House of Lords.

Not so free

Boyd Black, the Democratic Rights for Northern Ireland candidate, has been accused of causing great 'embarrassment' to the Labour-affiliated Fabian Society.

When the jury should be out

A legal expert urges the government to embrace the Roskill proposal on trial by tribunal of complex fraud cases

The City of London's reputation for financial integrity has been seriously damaged by recent scandals. There is widespread public suspicion of more cases of fraud lying undiscovered or unreported.

members of the public, and are governed by rules and conducted in a language learned only after prolonged study by participants. The primary reason for this proposal is that a jury hearing a complex fraud case is highly unlikely to understand it.

Nicholas Ashford on Hong Kong reservations about political reform

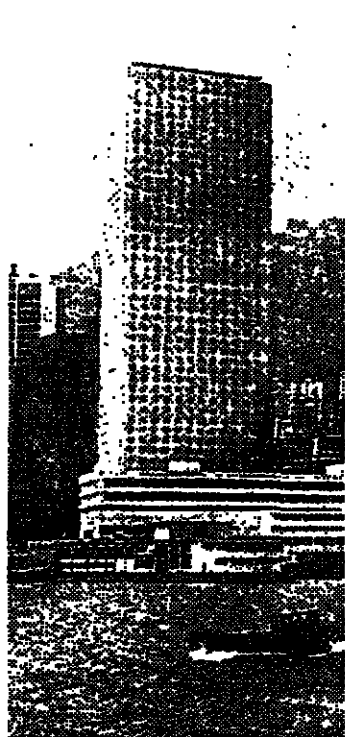
Don't rock the sampan

Although it is still 11 years before Hong Kong is returned to China, Peking is increasingly making its presence felt among the territory's 5.5 million people.

What really matters is whether China will stick to its side of the bargain with Britain that Hong Kong will retain 'a high degree of autonomy' after 1997.

Although political reform is still considered desirable so that a democratically based political system can be set up to prepare for Hong Kong's promised 'autonomy', it is now widely accepted that the pace of change must be slow, controlled and, above all, acceptable to Peking.

Even relatively radical members of the Legislative Council - such as Martin Lee and Szeto Wah, head of the teachers union, who have been pressing for faster political reform - accept that China's undertaking to maintain Hong Kong's 'prosperity and stability' means preserving its capitalist system.



Pillar of capitalism - more important for many than fledgling democracy

ended to satisfy the demands of a newly enfranchised electorate. Seen from Peking, the merits of colonialism far outweigh those of social democracy. It was therefore not altogether surprising that some Chinese leaders regarded Britain's attempts to unpick 140 years of colonial rule by introducing a degree of political reform as part of an underhand plot to maintain British influence.

Maureen Woodhall contrasts British grants with the long-term financing abroad

Try banking on student loans

they are interest-free. Loans are repayable over 10 years in the US and 20 years in Sweden and Germany. Because of the long repayment period and subsidized interest, none of the loan schemes is self-financing.

Sweden students from low-income families are not deterred. They know that if they are unemployed or their earnings fall below a minimum level they can postpone repayment, as 8 per cent of loan graduates did in 1984-85.

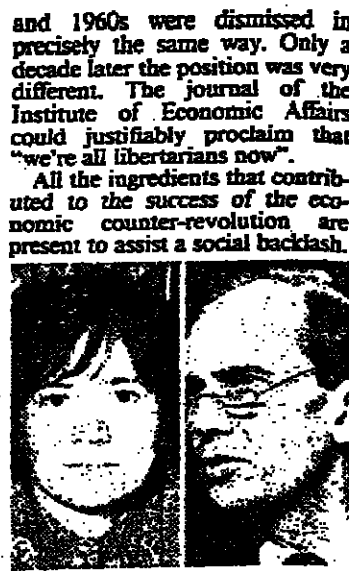
continued existence of a jury trial for particularly complicated fraud cases may actually assist wrongdoers to defeat justice. The fraud trials tribunal would bring defendants one benefit not at present available.

The author is a practising barrister.

Danny Finkelstein

Beating off the backlash

Norman Tebbit is not a consensus politician. Ignoring the pleas of more restrained colleagues, he considers the framing and delivery of gratuitous insults to be an intellectual challenge.



Norman Tebbit: unlikely allies in a crusade against permissiveness

Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood, is an exception, however. She has recently introduced a bill into the House of Commons which would ban the printing of 'page three girls' in the tabloid press.

More recently there has also been a great deal of condemnation, especially from such MPs as Teddy Taylor and Nicholas Fairbairn, of a jury for acquitting a man of murder when it was later revealed he had previously admitted two counts of rape.

As with economic affairs in the 1970s there is a widespread perception of crisis, with rising crime rates and lurid accounts of sexual violence in every daily newspaper. And as with 1970s economics there is a great deal of public support for a backlash, with widespread favour for greater authority, stiffer sentences and tougher discipline.

Giving more women positions of authority, promoting greater neighbourliness and supporting the more sober press are far better answers than banning newspapers. A free and tolerant society which respects the law and the police is far more likely to reduce crime than arbitrary sentences and unfair trials.

moreover... Miles Kington

On top of the world only

I first met Hamish McBarber at a No 52 bus stop in Notting Hill. He is the only real explorer I have ever come across, though of course I didn't know that to begin with.

design. I could hear Radio 3 in every breakfast room. I said: 'You can't get to the North Pole on public transport.' 'That's what you think, laddie. That's what they said when I agreed to trace the source of the Nile using only public transport.'



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

UNCERTAIN SUMMITRY

The Soviet leader's invitation to President Reagan to meet him in Europe - anywhere, anytime - to talk about a nuclear test ban should be seen for what it is: a play for the European vote and a tactic to delay the scheduled superpower summit. But it also suggests a measure of desperation in Moscow about how to deal with President Reagan's foreign policy. That may be why the Soviet people have not been told about the prompt American rejection of the idea and why the Soviet foreign ministry has now denied wanting to delay the Washington summit.

This is not to say that Mr Gorbachev's initiative was not cleverly timed. It was. The American President was on holiday. So were the Europeans, except for those taking part in the traditional Easter disarmament marches. The Soviet leader's message was calculated to bypass governments and appeal to what Moscow regards as potential allies in the pursuit of disarmament: the people of Europe.

In recent years, however, Moscow has had reason to be wary of the people of Europe. They have elected governments in favour of sitting US cruise and Pershing missiles on their territory, despite dire warnings from Moscow of what would happen if they did. Worse, the people of Spain have actually voted to remain in Nato in clear defiance of Moscow's advice to pull out. So why does Mr Gorbachev calculate that Europe will react differently on this occasion?

Partly, it is because of the undoubted appeal of a comprehensive nuclear test ban. What clearer expression of a country's peace-loving nature could there be than this? It casts anyone, including President Reagan who rejects the proposal and Mrs Thatcher,

who makes the unimpeachable point that nuclear weapons cannot be uninvited, in the role of uncharitable pessimist. Partly, though, it is because the Soviet Union is running out of other ideas - and time - for combating what seems from Moscow to be President Reagan's growing international clout.

When Mr Gorbachev announced his unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, the Soviet Union had completed tests of its newest missiles. It was a gesture that cost little. Washington, on the other hand, as President Reagan and his advisers have been keen to point out, was still in the middle of a series of tests. To call a half would have been expensive, politically and in research terms. The Americans, disregarding short-term propaganda considerations, said no.

Any advantage to the Russians could only be temporary. Eventually, the Russians will want to start a new series of tests. But they are hoist by their own petard: to start testing again would mean forfeiting the propaganda advantage their moratorium gave them in the first place. The only alternative would be to negotiate a test ban agreement with the Americans - and fast.

Moreover, the effect of Mr Gorbachev's new offer - whatever the Soviet Foreign Ministry is now saying - is to blur the issue of a superpower summit in Washington later in the year. If President Reagan had agreed to come to Europe to talk about a test ban, both the terms and the timing of a Washington summit would have been altered. And the Soviet leader has good reasons for wanting to do both.

Talks about arms control, and especially about the utopian idea of a test ban treaty,

have always been more acceptable to the Soviet leadership than talks about the whole gamut of bilateral and international issues: among them human rights. Since the Helsinki agreement was signed 10 years ago, the Soviet Union has repeatedly tried to have security issues and human rights discussed at separate forums to prevent the two being linked too closely in Western minds.

It is also becoming apparent that the Soviet leader - or his military and foreign policy establishment - may be having second thoughts about the timing and the venue of the summit he agreed to in November. Mr Gorbachev emerged from the Geneva summit with very little to show for his pains: above all, no US concessions on the Strategic Defence Initiative. An agreement to meet next in Washington may now look in Moscow like a concession to the Americans which it would have been wiser not to make. Can the Soviet leader afford to go to Washington with no prospect of an arms control agreement of any kind in prospect, and President Reagan riding high after his Libyan venture?

As Moscow's foreign policy line looks increasingly unclear, the Soviet side may be concerned that June, or even September, may be too soon to talk generally with the Americans. What better, from Moscow's point of view, than indefinite postponement of a Washington summit, in favour of test ban talks among friendlier natives in Europe?

It is to the credit of Washington's steel nerves that it insists on following the letter of the agreements reached at last November's summit. It is a measure of the uncertainty still prevailing in Moscow that Mr Gorbachev cannot do likewise.

POLICY FIREWORKS FOR THE SCHOOLS

Education policy-making has become a display of think-tank squibs. The ideas range through vouchers, "privatization", City money, and this week the latest, Crown schools. Some of them dazzle. Each has its attractions. Most speak more directly to the concerns of parents than the specifying that has gone on at the National Union of Teachers' conference this Easter. Each is worth study - and experimental implementation at the level where it counts, the level of local communities.

But while the new ideas are welcome evidence of fresh thought about old problems, some seem like panaceas for problems of under-achievement and organization that by their very nature will not be ameliorated quickly. Meanwhile, what ought to be square in the educational radical's sight - a better connexion between schooling and the economic life of late twentieth century Britain - slips out of focus.

Crown schools have an intriguing ring. The idea is a hybrid. Its elements are nostalgia for the direct grant schools and a half-assimilated notion of the success in American urban areas of "magnet schools". It harks back, perhaps unconsciously, to the work of Professor A.H. Halsey (no Tory but on occasion a radical thinker about school organization) on educational priority areas.

An exciting picture can be drawn (for the manifesto?). It features well-disciplined inner city schools making minimal concessions to the poverty of their environment, offering to the children of the cities the same kind of secondary education so desired by the middle and upper classes. Such schools could be vehicles of advancement for the dis-

advantaged, white and non-white, providing an avenue to academic qualifications - a reawakening of the "ideals of the founders centuries ago of the public schools".

And there the dream bumps into reality. Educational enhancement is being attempted by, for example, the Inner London Education Authority with its "Hargreaves" initiative. But the predilections of some of its Labour members and the anti-achievement ethos of some of its teachers are not the only reasons why such schemes of planting orchids in gardens of weed are unlikely to have dramatic results. The conditions of inner urban life do not easily bend to classroom improvements.

Crown schools would likely be selective; they would have to be if they were going to offer examination courses different from the comprehensives that surround them. But selective on what basis: aptitude, proficiency at tests, parental enthusiasm? They would attract the better families: they would become a means for reorganizing education, in a way that maverick ministers such as Mr Bob Dunn talk about but which timid Cabinets has shown no willingness to sanction.

Who is to pay for their enhanced curriculum, good teachers, laboratories and freshly painted classrooms? The fact is, uncomfortable though it is to both teacher unions and to Department of Education and Science ministers, that spending per head in secondary education has risen in the past six years of alleged educational austerity. It has risen and yet there are well-attested complaints about books and buildings. There is, in other words, much that is wrong with the administration of education. The culprit is not

the DES singularly nor the local authorities in the plural but the relationship between them.

Nearly all the glistening policy ideas thrown in the air recently have written on them the end of that pat formula used since the Second World War to describe British education - a national system locally administered. The existence of Crown schools would upset town hall planning. They would require the DES to grow an executive arm. It would be only a matter of time before the central government stepped in to administer the entirety of the system. But of course there is in existence already an executive arm of the central government running, more or less, a large component of public education: the Manpower Services Commission.

The Crown schools would be neo-grammar schools pursuing an academic curriculum, more or less like the public schools. They would not offer preparation for work and training in vocational skills. They would, in short, miss the target.

For the problem of British secondary schools is not, primarily, a failure to serve middle class children and to stretch and stimulate the well-motivated from good homes - important though deficiencies are in these departments. The failure is at the other end of the scale. It is devising a system which maintains the interest of the 30 to 40 per cent who at present sit for no recognized examination, who give up mentally before the fourth form, who have consistently been neglected since the 1944 Act. Reform in this area is not glamorous. But the educational revolution is needed here as much as, if not more than, at the other end of the scale of ability and motivation.

Job for JobCentres

From Mr Ray Hurst
Sir, Your leader, "The way to more jobs" (March 20), refers to the "revolution" in the role of JobCentres resulting from the Government's decision to expand counselling facilities for the long-term unemployed. You fail to mention that in 1983 the Government, in accepting the recommendations of Sir Derek Rayner's report on the MSC's employment service, abolished counselling facilities for the unemployed in JobCentres, including the Commission's occupational guidance units.

This was done as a cost-cutting exercise but the decision also reflected certain ministerial views at that time that counselling the

unemployed was "social engineering", totally alien to the "stand on your own feet" philosophy.

Associated with the Government's attitude in 1983 to counselling services in JobCentres was its decision to abolish requirements of unemployed persons aged over 18 to register for employment. This decision, again taken for cost-cutting reasons, placed this country in breach of international Labour Organisation and European social conventions which require member countries to register the unemployed for employment. These conventions state that this should be done to evaluate their capacity for employment or vocational training or re-training.

The Government should reintroduce the requirement of all unemployed people aged 18 and over receiving benefits to also register regularly for employment at JobCentres and careers offices. This has always applied in respect of young people under 18 years of age and cannot be dissociated from the success of the local authority careers service in placing young people into the Youth Training Scheme.

Only in this way can continuous counselling of all the unemployed be maintained. Why should this important revived facility be withheld by JobCentres until a person has been unemployed for a year?

Yours faithfully,
RAY HURST,
39 Corporation Road,
Redcar, Cleveland.

Plans to dismantle Herstonceux

From Dr Victor Clube
Sir, It seems extraordinary that only the Treasury now stands in the way of the Department of Education and Science and its plan to dismantle the Royal Greenwich Observatory (Pearce Wright's report, March 21). Have not the Government and the head of State some concern for the future role of our national observatory? Or are we to understand that if the Ministry of Defence were to choose to close down the Meteorological Office in order to save a few pounds, then the nation would disclaim any interest in the weather?

Should these questions seem frivolous, Sir, my point is a serious one nonetheless. There are obviously more things in heaven and earth than meet the eyes of a few Civil Servants in the Department of Education and Science. Yet it is these "experts" apparently who have persuaded the new chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council, who is no astronomer, into believing it is not important to predict what is happening in the sky.

It seems doubly extraordinary therefore that the planned dispersal to Scotland should involve terminating the prediction services which constitute the only sound reason for having a national

observatory at all. And it seems triply extraordinary that all this should be done in the year, nay the week almost, of the very comet that gave our national observatory its supreme international status in the first place. Such insensitivity indicates a lack of appreciation not only of the celestial sphere but of English history as well.

One should of course remember that it is only two decades since the Government removed our national observatory out of the ambit of the Ministry of Defence where it had essentially been for three hundred years. Now, on the advice of mere Civil Servants and a few blinkered academics, who do not know its purpose, the Government seeks to dispose of our national observatory altogether.

Does the Government really believe we understand our celestial environment so well that we need have no concern over what is going to happen during the next fifty years, say? Or is the Government placing its faith in Americans as usual, and quietly selling off the family silver?

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR CLUBE,
University of Oxford,
Department of Astrophysics,
South Parks Road,
Oxford,
March 25.

US and the Contras

From Mr David Hoile
Sir, John Carlin's article, "Will Congress bail out the Contras?" (March 18), was both contradictory and misleading. In it he dismisses the US view that the Nicaraguan people are "in a ferment".

Somoza's overthrow in 1979, amid wide-scale dissatisfaction, was achieved with 5,000 rebels under arms: there are now 21,000 Nicaraguans under arms. Surely four times as many anti-government guerrillas and twice as many civilian refugees now than at the height of the Somoza era indicates a considerable degree of discontent?

John Carlin's dismissal of opposition to the Sandinistas as being "the embittered middle class" ignores the fact that the Contra movement is composed overwhelmingly of peasants and workers: he also neglects to mention the Miskito, Sumo and Creole ethnic communities whose attempted collectivisation, displacement and slaughter led to their taking up arms against the Managua regime.

The 'workers'

From Mr E. W. D. Jackson
Sir, I do not know why Dr Doig (March 24) should think that terms like "work giver" and "work acceptor" are any less divisive than "manager" and "worker". Presumably a "work giver", having cleared all his papers off his desk, can go away to do some hard labour on the golf course, while the "work acceptor" meekly gets on with the job allotted to him! The term "manager" is entirely functional, and the term "worker" is hallowed by tradition and certainly not offensive.

If we have to copy the continentalists, let us imitate their work methods rather than their jargon. If the relationship between management and work-force is good, it does not matter how the individuals describe their functions. If it is bad, no changes in title will improve it.

When the Red Army was raised, the old Russian military ranks were avoided in favour of such functional terms as "Comrade Battalion Commander". When the Russians had their backs to the wall, fighting the Nazis, the old ranks and their insignia were revived and have been kept ever since.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JACKSON,
8 Woodlands Road,
Surrey,
March 24.

Stripping of grain

From Dr Lynnette J. Peel
Sir, Your report (March 24) "Stripping off ears of corn to cut costs" suggests that this method of grain harvesting has not been developed successfully in the past. In fact, the "stripper", using this principle, was developed in South Australia in 1843.

A stripper was essentially a large box on wheels with a comb mounted in the front and a revolving beater mounted at the back of the comb, so that as the stripper was pulled through the wheat by a horse the ripe heads of grain were drawn back through the comb and knocked off by the beater into the box. The mixture of chaff and grain in the box was then taken to a small stationary winnower and winnowed by hand.

In the mid-1880s the winnowing and stripping operations were incorporated into one machine, the McKay stripper-harvester, and this machine was used throughout the Australian wheat regions; by 1914 some 10,000 had been exported to the Argentine.

Yours faithfully,
LYNNETTE J. PEEL,
49 Oaklands,
Hamilton Road,
Reading,
March 24.

From Mr J. P. Toomey
Sir, The idea of grain stripping discovered by the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering (Science Report, March 24) is in fact a very old one. In Book 1 of the Georgics Virgil describes the process, using the verb *stringere*,

Continuing grip of apartheid

From Dr Julian Cobbing
Sir, In reply to Mr Woodrow Wyatt's claim ("Give Botha enough time to bury apartheid") March 1) that "the policy of apartheid is officially and actually dead", this is certainly not the case in Grahamstown, the town in the Eastern Cape in which I live. Neither are we one of the "pockets of segregation left after so many years".

Blacks are still forced to live in residentially segregated areas throughout "white South Africa" and are clearly destined to remain that way partly for the purposes of military control. The organisation to which I belong, the Grahamstown Committee of Democrats, has had its meetings banned since last July because we publicly called for the end of apartheid.

Mr Wyatt has misunderstood what apartheid is. Apartheid is the black "homelands" - separate, huge reserves, turned into pseudo-states ruled over by black collaborators, the creation of which this century has involved allocating 87 per cent of land in South Africa to just over 10 per cent of whites and 13 per cent to nearly 80 per cent of blacks, a land division which, makes Ian Smith's Rhodesia appear extravagantly generous.

This division was imposed by force against the will of the voiceless majority of blacks and they will never accept it. P. W. Botha is fully committed to maintaining and defending this grand apartheid, but calculatedly seeks to confuse foreign visitors by speaking of reforms within the white pseudo-state.

The African National Congress (which Mr Wyatt forgot to say has been banned since 1960), and other organisations such as the United Democratic Front and the Azanian Peoples Organisation, are fighting to destroy grand apartheid and replace it with a single, unified democratic state. That it will require a comprehensive structural revolution is a tautology.

The longer the indefensible is defended by the Army the more likely it is that the solutions will be extreme, and vice-versa. I am afraid that Mr Wyatt has been the victim of a very big lie indeed.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN COBBING,
15 George Street,
Grahamstown,
South Africa,
March 20.

The Savery case

From Mr Denis E. Meehan
Sir, It used to be commonly held that one of the main purposes of education was to nurture in individuals the capacity for independent thought.

Now (March 21) the Director of Education for the County of Avon dismisses us of this silly notion: a teacher whose published opinions are "extreme and provocative" to his colleagues (but not, apparently, extreme and provocative enough to be actionable at law) is to be hauled before a disciplinary tribunal.

Mr Savery's co-educators have to be protected from opinions contrary to their own, it seems, they cannot hold their own in rational debate, or agree to differ when differing opinions prove irreconcilable. Let's burn a few books.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS E. MEEHAN,
194 Merton Road, SW18,
March 22.

Sirte recalled

From Mr David W. Pugh
Sir, Your editorial today (March 25) is headed "The Battle of Sirte". To some who served in the Royal Navy in the last war the real battle of Sirte was fought on Passion Sunday, March 22, 1942 when the whole of the Italian Fleet comprising all their battleships, 8in and 6in cruisers plus destroyers, intercepted a Malta convoy passing from Alexandria to Malta.

Admiral Philip Vian, commanding the 15th Cruiser Squadron of four 5½in light cruisers, retired behind a dense smoke-screen, firing on radar bearings which the Italians did not possess, and put that mighty force to flight. There was a howling gale blowing, but it was a day to remember for ever.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. PUGH
(Ex-Surgeon Lieutenant, RNVR),
38 Sun Hill,
Bath,
Avon,
March 26.

Deaths from cold

From Dr J. H. B. Beal
Sir, Longstanding, regular readers of *The Times* death announcements will have noticed that, for at least the last 60 years, spells of very cold weather have been rapidly followed by increased numbers of elderly deaths recorded.

It is unlikely that any of those whose executors put notices in *The Times* died from hypothermia due to lack of means to pay heating bills.

This suggests that there are other mechanisms automatically causing deaths of the elderly in cold weather. Changes of government have not had any obvious effect on this phenomenon.

Slow but sure

From Mr W. C. R. Whalley
Sir, Our tortoise emerged today, two weeks later than last year. He lives, free range, in our small walled garden. I captured him in central Syria in 1950, and he has lived with us ever since.

Usually he appears at the same time as the dandelions, to which he is partial. Later, lettuce and strawberries are his favourites. I attribute his success to the fact that his home in Syria at an elevation of 1,600ft can be bitterly cold in winter.

Anyway, 35 years in the open in Berkshire seems a pretty good record.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 2 1924

Antagonism between the Bavarian state government and the central government in Berlin led Hitler to believe that his National Socialist Party could take over Germany. With what he thought was the support of the Bavarian premier and the head of the Bavarian army, and the encouragement of Ludendorff, he launched his coup from the Beer Hall in Munich on November 8, 1923. It quickly proved abortive when, on the following day, the police fired on Hitler's supporters. Hitler served only one year of his sentence, and that in comparative comfort.

MUNICH TREASON TRIAL

FARCICAL SENTENCES.
GENERAL LUDENDORFF ACQUITTED.
(From Our Correspondent.)
MUNICH, April 1.
Subdued cheers greeted General Ludendorff and his associates as they swaggered into the Court this morning to hear judgement passed on them for the part they played in the Nationalist revolt in Munich on November 8 and 9 last year. With the exception of Herr Hitler and Dr. Weber all were in full uniform and wearing numerous decorations. Previously, in the streets leading to the Army School, General Ludendorff had received an enthusiastic welcome as his car drove slowly through the large crowds that had assembled in spite of the numerous police edicts forbidding all public demonstrations.

The verdict was slowly read by Dr. Neidhardt, the President of the Court—Five years' imprisonment in a fortress and a fine of 200 marks (1210) and costs for Herr Hitler, Dr. Weber, Herr von Pöhlner and Lieutenant-Colonel Kriebel, who were found guilty of high treason—the crowded Court shuddered with indignation—one year and three months' imprisonment in a fortress and a fine of 100 marks and costs for Lieutenant Brücker, Captain Röhm, Herr Frick, Lieutenant Wagner, and Lieutenant Pernet (General Ludendorff's stepson), who were found guilty of abetting high treason; Excellency Ludendorff acquitted, but ordered to pay certain costs.

The President waited for the excitement and sympathetic murmurs to subside and then continued—"Hitler, Pöhlner, Weber and Kriebel must serve six months and will then be released on their own recognisances, the remainder of the sentence being suspended. Brücker and the others will be set free at once, also on suspended recognisances, and on their own recognisances."

Munich is chuckling over the verdict, which is regarded as an excellent joke for All Fools' Day. The verdict was arrived at by a vote of four to one, the Court consisting of three judges and two laymen. The President afterwards read a long statement setting forth the legal grounds on which the Court had based its decision. In view of the actual verdict, it was rather difficult to take his statement seriously in spite of the use of such phrases as *filii justitiae perant mundus*.

At the conclusion of the President's statement, General Ludendorff indignantly declared that it was a scandal and a disgrace that he should be acquitted and his gallant comrades condemned. The public rose to jeer at the Court or to shout, "Hail Hitler!" or "Hail Ludendorff!" The President looked surprised and grave. He evidently felt that he had done nothing to merit this hostile demonstration. Had he not on several occasions during the long trial said that the Court was not a theatre? But the performance was obviously finished, and the public swarmed out into the corridors to greet the heroes as they walked away.

From a window Herr Hitler smilingly bowed his acknowledgements to the crowd outside, who already knew the verdict and apparently appreciated the joke. The streets were again densely crowded to welcome General Ludendorff on his way home. One or two women were crushed and several other casualties occurred owing to a charge by mounted police armed with rubber-covered steel truncheons who evidently did not realize that it was April 1, and were acting on the orders they had received to disperse the crowd at any cost. But in an hour or so conditions in the city were absolutely normal.

The trial has at any rate proved that to plot against the Constitution of the Reich is not considered a serious crime in Bavaria. Possibly the only people who do not share the general satisfaction at the verdict are the relatives of the 18 men who lost their lives under the leadership of Herr Hitler and General Ludendorff in the Odeonsplatz on November 9.

Return of Eros

From Mr Frank T. Smith
Sir, I understood from reading H.V. Morton's *In Search of London* that the original intention of the sculptor Gilbert was to perpetrate a pun by positioning Eros so that his arrow was discharged in the direction of Shaftesbury Avenue.

This was not done, and I had hoped that when Eros was returned to Piccadilly Circus he would be seen to have "buried his shaft" in the correct direction. However, sadly, he now has sped the bolt to Lower Regent Street. Yours faithfully,
FRANK T. SMITH,
St Paul's Mans.,
6 Park Avenue,
Dunfermline,
Fife,
March 25.

THE ARTS

Television
A human drama at its most genuine

Standing Up for Joe (BBC) was the story of a five-year-old boy whose cerebral palsy had apparently confined him to a half-life without hope...

Ariane Mnouchkine (right), whose adaptation of Klaus Mann's Mephisto opens at the Barbican tomorrow, is a theatrical legend for her piercing vision and radical individuality...

An artist's response to guilt and complicity

I first met Ariane Mnouchkine in 1971 during the run of her production of 1789 at the Roundhouse...



Cartoucherie, but it was structured to be more contradictory and painful; more true. We began to grow up. We turned to Shakespeare because he is a school; and it's natural to go back to school after a certain length of time...

Concerts
Return of irony

"Boulez is back!" screamed the New York Philharmonic's announcements. Well, he was back, briefly, and with a vengeance. Still, it all seemed rather tasteless...

Gabrieli Quartet
Wigmore Hall

String quartets and solo violinists rarely work together. Perhaps the touch of "artistic temperament" traditionally associated with the great quartet leader is also liable to render him psychologically incapable of playing second fiddle...

Pope/Rendall
Wigmore Hall

David Rendall, currently a dashing Matteo in Covent Garden's Arabella, found himself on Sunday with Faust, Rodolfo, Nemorino and Alfredo on his hands as well...

Hilary Finch

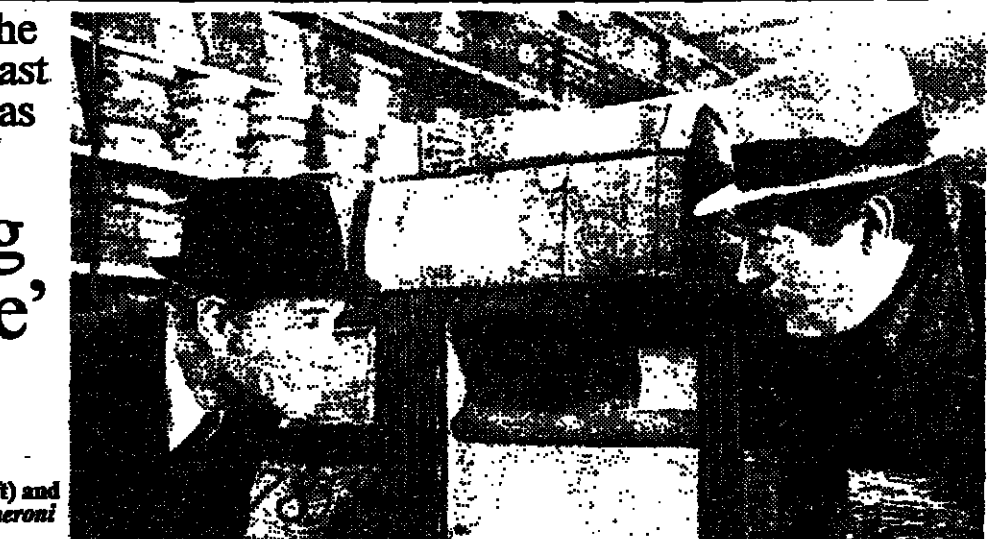
Richard Morrison handled nicely, though the stage-managing of his duets with Cathryn Pope: Traviata's "Brindisi" begged an encore...



Nostalgia and a taste for the home-grown are not the least qualities of the Viennale, as David Robinson reports

Remembering the 'old empire'

Endearing knockabout surrealism with the papier maché of Katiujabato. Forty years on: Jack Lemmon (left) and Marcello Mastroianni in Maccheroni...



A first film by Wolfram Paulus, Heidenlocher (Hideout) has won a certain critical prestige and was the Austrian entry at the Berlin Festival last month...

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE Gioacchino Rossini's SEMIRAMIDE Concert performances Conductor Henry Lewis

IF YOU WANT TO GET AHEAD GET THE TIMES GENERAL APPOINTMENTS THURSDAY MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY OF THE TIMES

The morning after... the GLC's last legacy



A lone figure patrolling the empty corridors of power, while a walker in Jubilee Gardens picks his way through debris left by revellers (Photographs: John Voos)

Thousands of empty beer tins littering the south bank of the Thames marked the end yesterday of the largest local authority in the world (Hugh Clayton writes).

Workers clambered over County Hall, headquarters until midnight on Monday of the Greater London Council, removing banners and other reminders of 22 years of municipal administration.

For the past three years the banners have taunted Conservative parliamentarians across the Thames at Westminster. Sir Geoffrey Taylor, chairman of the London residuary body, the new owners, said: "This lovely building should not be festooned with advertising."

It will be a year at least before County Hall, with its 1,000 rooms and five miles of corridors, is ready to be sold.

First day of the new regime

The first day after the disbanding of the County Council got off to a shaky start in the West Midlands yesterday when staff from the residuary body found they could not operate the telephones.

The staff took over at the West Midlands County Hall where the County Council had a computerized telephone system.

There were no switchboard operators - only security staff - and one could work out which new executive was on what number.

The situation was less muddled in Yorkshire where well-drilled telephone operators quickly adopted their new roles. "Residuary body" they said

to callers - that was when callers could find a phone number to ring. There was total silence from the Barnsley headquarters of South Yorkshire and also in nearby Wakefield, centre of the former West Yorkshire authority.

In other centres yesterday the action was under way for the residuary bodies whose task is to temporarily take over the local government services provided for 18 million people.

In Greater Manchester, Mr Peter Quick, the new chief executive and former county legal officer, was doing the rounds accompanied by Mr Peter Hadfield, the quango chairman and newly-retired chairman and managing direc-

tor of the brewery Bass North West.

In Tyne-side in the north east, Mr Peter Smith, the former county treasurer now running the new Tyne and Wear residuary body, was at first confronted by a pile of post and papers 6 feet high.

One of the first problems facing the chairman of the Merseyside residuary body was what to do with two Ford Granada cars. "I should imagine they will be sold eventually," Mr William Baldwin, former legal officer, said.

Before its abolition on Monday night, West Midlands County Council made a final £1.5 million gift to attract the 1992 Olympic Games to Birmingham.

Comets 'a source of viruses'

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

New pictures of Halley's comet, taken by one of the world's most powerful telescopes on Monday night, confirm a theory that viruses and bacteria originate in outer space.

The claim was made yesterday by two eminent astronomers, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe and Sir Fred Hoyle, based on a study of the first infra-red pictures of the comet obtained by the 154-inch Anglo-Australian Telescope, at Siding Spring, New South Wales.

For more than 10 years, the two astronomers have pursued the idea that comets carry living organisms to Earth, providing the source of viruses

and bacteria that have caused unexplained epidemics ranging from influenza to whooping cough and animal diseases.

The astronomers say that confirmation of their theory comes in a preliminary report leaked around the world to major observatories and universities via a special astronomy intelligence network.

The observations of the infra-red radiation were planned after the encounter three weeks ago between the European Giotto spacecraft and the comet, when it was discovered that the nucleus was velvet black in colour and that it might consist of carbon-like material, overturning the widely held view that comets are mainly icy snowballs encrusted with dust.

Astronomers at Siding Spring who analyzed the infra-red "fingerprint" of Halley's comet found that the same patterns can be reproduced in laboratory experiments.

According to Professor Wickramasinghe, "the infra-red analyses are identical to those obtained in the laboratory", when particles of organic material, which are the building blocks of bacteria and viruses, are subjected to the type of conditions which surrounded the comet.

Details of the laboratory experiments which coincide with the new findings are published today in *Nature* from Space, written by the two astronomers in association with Dr John Watkins, an epidemiologist.

France to withdraw observers in Beirut

From Diana Geddes Paris

The new right-wing French Government is withdrawing its remaining 45 military observers from strife-torn Beirut within the next few days because they are "no longer able to carry out their mission properly."

The decision to withdraw marks a shift in the French position of supporting the Government of President Gemayel.

It has been seen by some as also marking the beginning of what could become a total disengagement of France from Lebanon, even though there has been no talk of withdrawing the 1,400 French soldiers in Unifil, the United Nations peace-keeping force, in the south of the country.

The decision was said to have followed the death of the seventh observer in an ambush at the mission's Beirut headquarters on March 12, four days before the victory of the right in the French elections and one week before the formation of the new Government under M. Jacques Chirac.

But M. Chirac has been credited with the decision, which fits in with his expressed view that France should take as few risks as possible in Lebanon.

Although the kidnappers have never mentioned the withdrawal of the observers as one of their specific demands, both the Shia Muslims and the Syrians, who are thought to be close to them, have repeatedly called on France to stop "interfering" in Lebanese affairs.

BEIRUT: France's decision to withdraw its 45 military observers from here gives Lebanon's Christian and Muslim militias new free-fire zones (Our Correspondent writes).

The move has raised well-founded fears that the 11-year-old civil war may take a turn for the worse as the French represented the last token of international commitment to help the Lebanese solve the conflict, which by conservative estimates has already claimed about 100,000 lives.

Today's events

Royal engagements: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother opens the headquarters of the British Sporting Art Trust, National Horse Racing Museum, Newmarket, 12.15. The Prince of Wales opens British Aerospace's new Space Engineering building, Filton, Bristol, 10.10; and then visits the FreeLand Buildings Project of the Zenzele Self Build Housing Association, Eastville, Bristol, 2.15; later, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, he attends the London Welsh Rugby Football Club centenary dinner, the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W1, 7.20. New exhibitions: Antiques to Madness? work by Richard Hamilton, Nam June Paik, Roy Lichtenstein, Hannah Collins and Piotr Sobienicki; Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, W6; Tues to Sun 12 to 8 (ends April 27). Decorative batiks by Elly

Beckett: The Talent Store Gallery, 11 Eccleston St, SW1; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30 (ends 25 April). Exhibitions in progress: Blowing in the Wind: works in textiles, plastics and ceramics by five young artists; Landscapes in glass, by Wendy Ramshaw; A glass interior by Christine Kirby; Scent bottles by Liz McClure; and fashion jewellery in glass by Slim Barrett. Aspects, 3/5 Whitfield St, W1; Mon to Fri 10 to 7, Sat 10 to 5 (ends April 26). The Archives of Dorset; Dorset County Museum, Dorchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends April 26). Filices' Printed Textiles; Wallace Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield St; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4.45 (ends April 12). The Print in Germany 1880-1933; York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Sq; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends May 4). Last chance to see Landscapes in charcoal by

Luke Ralphs; Nicol Centre, Brewery Court, Cirencester, 10 to 4. Music: Concert by the London Sinfonietta with György Pauk (conductor), Queen Elizabeth Hall, EC1, 7.45. Children's concert (suitable for ages 7-13) with Lucie Skeaping and Jeremy Barlow; Purcell Room, South Bank, 3. Jazz recital by the Jenako Five; Foyer, 12.30. Concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, 7.30; Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1. Concert by the Guarneri Trio; Barbican Hall, EC2, 1. Concert by Hampshire County Youth Orchestra, Salisbury Cathedral, 7.45. Recital by Mary Mee (soprano) and John Mee (organ); St Olave's, Hart St, EC3, 1.05. Talks, lectures, films: Techniques: The development of oil painting, by David Bomford; The National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq, WC2, 1. Op and kinetic Art, by Stephen Bann, 1; Any Warhol and His Clan and Jim Dine, 2.30; Tate Gallery, Millbank. Heartbeat of a Volcano and Succession on Lava (films); The Geological Museum, Exhibition Rd, SW7, 2.30. I have a dream... by Michael Lyons; Friends House, Euston Rd, NW1, 7.30. General: Teenage painting and drawing: murals with Brian Dawn (ages 12 to 16); Poetic puppets (make and play) with Barbara Davis (ages 7 to 11); Sculpture and Clay; modelling with Zora Bjelogrić (ages 8 to 12); Pottery with Valerie Taylor (ages 7 to 10); Printing with Ray Gale (ages 9 to 14); Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3, 10 to 3. Magic lantern demonstration (ages 4 to 11); The Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2, 12. Fan making workshop; Museum of London, London Wall, EC2, 11 to 1 and 2 to 4. International Model Railway Exhibition; Royal Horticultural Society Halls, SW, today and tomorrow 10 to 8 (ends tomorrow).

Books - hardback

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: Nanea Mac: The National Commission on Disappeared People (Faber, £14.95). French Fascism, The First Wave, 1924-33, by Robert Soucy (Yale, £22.50). Swana Shokwe and his African Conquests, by Nicholas Hamman (Cape, £12.95). The Camp David Accords, by Mohamed Ibrahim Kamel (KP, £25). Joking the Club, A History of Jokes and Yokes, by Ian A. Gryn (Yale, £30). Memoirs of a Thinking Radical, by Peter Medawar (Oxford, £12.50). Studies in Post-impersonalism, by John Rawland (Thames & Hudson, £25). The Idea of England, by Russell Chamberlain (Thames & Hudson, £20.95). A Short History of Irish Literature, by Seamus Deane (Hutchinson, £15). Beatrix Potter's Journals, abridged by Glen Cavaliero (Viking, £10.95). NS

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending 23 March 86: 1 EastEnders (BBC 1) 22.0m. 2 EastEnders (Thames) 22.7m. 3 Dear John (ITV) 13.2m. 4 News (BBC) News (Wed) 12.6m. 5 Dallas 12.1m. 6 Wogan (Fri) 12.0m. 7 The Body in the Library 11.8m. 8 OED 11.4m. 9 That's Life 11.0m. 10 Hancock's Half Hour 11.1m.

Roads

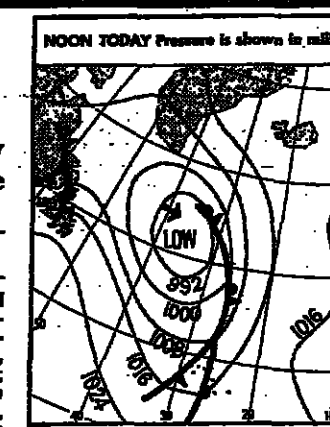
London and South-east: A23: Roadworks at the junction of Brighton Rd and Acre Lane. M1: Southbound lane closures approaching junction 6 (A405 interchange), 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. The Midlands: M1: Contraflow on northbound carriageway between junctions 15 and 16 (Northampton and Daventry). A5: Repairs between Shrewsbury and Gobowen. A446: Reconstruction of northbound carriageway near the A446 Colehill bypass interchange. Wales and West: A38: Northbound carriageway closed at South Brent; contraflow on southbound. A5: Major roadworks in Regent St, Langollen, Clyd, A478; Roadworks S of Builth Wells; temporary lights. The North: A1 (M): Contraflow near Blyth roundabout, Yorksire, M63: Major widening scheme between junctions 1 and 3, Barton Bridge. Scotland: A9: Roadworks between Larbert Cross and North Broomage; lane closures between Dumblane and Dumbarton. Edinburgh: Width restriction in both directions in Leith St; delays. A93: Single line traffic in North Deeside Rd, Banochry. Information supplied by AA.

Weather forecast

A cool showery N or NW airstream will cover the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

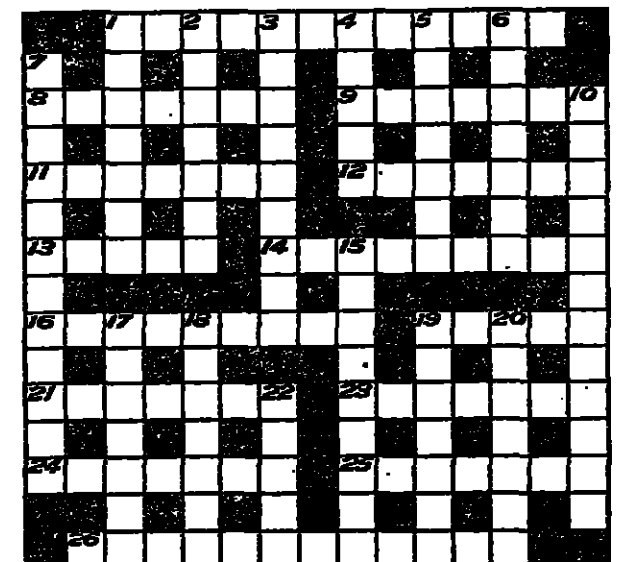
London, SE, central E, E. central N, NE England, East Angles, Midlands, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: Fog patches early; sunny intervals and showers, some heavy with hail, sleet or snow, perhaps thunder, dying out in the evening; wind variable, mainly light or moderate; max temp 9C (48F). Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, showers, heavy and prolonged at times with hail, sleet or snow, perhaps thunder; wind W or NW light or moderate; max temp 9C (48F). Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Sunny or clear intervals and showers, locally heavy on tomorrow; rather cold with night frosts.



High Tides

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.53	6.2	8.23	5.8
Aberdeen	7.43	3.3	8.23	3.4
Cardiff	12.38	9.8	1.18	9.2
Dover	5.07	5.5	5.42	5.3
Falmouth	11.31	4.0	7.04	4.2
Harwich	5.48	3.4	6.19	3.2
Holyhead	4.27	4.8	5.30	4.4
Leamouth	12.02	6.3	1.29	6.9
Lough	9.02	4.5	9.55	4.9
Lowestoft	3.46	2.2	3.58	2.0
Malpas	5.57	4.4	6.29	4.3
Northfleet	11.41	5.4	12.12	2.8
Orkney	11.17	4.2	12.44	4.4
Portland	12.19	1.5	12.50	1.3
Portsmouth	12.02	5.7	12.42	5.7
Southampton	5.05	3.9	6.04	3.8
Swansea	12.0	7.7	12.42	7.7
Tees	10.11	4.2	11.09	4.2
Wolverhampton	5.47	3.7	6.16	3.3

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,009



ACROSS
1 One way of finishing top in language? (6-4).
8 Relieved from sentry-go? That's unusual (3-4).
9 Affecting the nose of Norman Bishop - and ours perhaps (7).
11 Weapon to apply knock-out to contain brief general disturbance (4-3).
12 Many a march organized with foreign money (7).
13 Head's name in marble (5).
14 Caught adding a bit on (7,2).
16 Sort of site meant for a cafe (9).
19 In dramatic action they may be far from spineless (5).
21 Relationship with amiable radical (7).
23 Foot fault is hard in the old lingo (7).
24 Among the others, the Prophet's son-in-law is a practical type (7).
25 Rate cash in - standard procedure (7).
26 No fair reward for such a one (5-7).
DOWN
1 Team for a Jacobite rebellion (7).
2 Ornament of the Board branching out (7).
3 How to escape scoring a duck (3,3,3).
4 Outstanding - arrogant too (5).
5 Lion and partner spotted in the forest (7).
6 Do those reassembled become calmed? (7).
7 Criminal demolition contractor (12).
10 Pinkerton girl noticed by the eagle-eyed (5-7).
15 Rash use of the technical term (9).
17 Beat Jack with a trumpet blast (7).
18 Wells brought him down to earth (7).
19 Unethical - animal noise arising in bed (7).
20 Long term issue includes capital return (7).
22 Let down beside the road? (5).
Solution to Puzzle No 17,008

General

1 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada 17.8m. 2 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada 16.9m. 3 Wish You Were Here (Mon/Wed) 16.5m. 4 Auf Wiedersehen Pet Central 13.5m. 5 Crossroads (Tue) Central 13.2m. 6 Reunion at Fifeborough TV 13.2m. 7 All At No.20 Thurs 13.1m. 7 Boom Corera 13.1m. 9 Emmerdale Farm (Tue) Yorkshire 12.9m. 10 Crossroads (Wed) Central 12.4m.

General

1 Grange Hill 7.1m. 1. Forty Minutes 7.1m. 2 News (BBC) News (Wed) 6.9m. 3 MASH 5.1m. 4 Shogun 4.3m. 5 The Bill 4.4m. 6 Star Trek 4.4m. 7 Reunion (Mon/Sat) 4.4m. 8 Horizon (Mon/Sat) 4.1m. 9 My Favourite Wife 4.1m.

Anniversaries

Births: Hans Christian Andersen, Odense, Denmark, 1805; William Holman Hunt, Pre-Raphaelite, London, 1827; Emile Zola, Paris, 1840. Deaths: Sir James Clarke Ross, Polar explorer, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, 1862; Richard Cobden, politician, London, 1865; C.S. Forester, novelist, creator of Hornblower, Fullerton, California, 1966; Georges Pompidou, president of France 1969-74, Paris, 1974.

Lighting-up time

London 8.05 pm to 6.02 am. Bristol 8.16 pm to 6.12 am. Cardiff 8.43 pm to 6.05 am. Manchester 8.16 pm to 6.08 am. Newcastle 8.25 pm to 6.25 am.

Around Britain

Location	Sun Rain	Mon C	Sun Rain	Mon C
East Coast	1.6	7.45	Dull	7.45
Scarborough	1.4	7.45	Shower	7.45
Blackpool	2.4	7.45	Bright	7.45
Croft	2.4	7.45	Bright	7.45
Douglas	2.5	7.45	Shower	7.45
London	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Edinburgh	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Cardiff	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Belfast	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Sheffield	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Manchester	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Newcastle	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Nottingham	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
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Sheff	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Cardiff	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Belfast	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Sheffield	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Manchester	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Newcastle	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Nottingham	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Leeds	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Sheff	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
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Nottingham	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Leeds	1.6	7.45	Bright	7.45
Sheff	1.6	7.45		

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1402.2 (+12.2)

FT-SE 100
1684.0 (+15.2)

USM (Datastream)
118.20 (+0.64)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4685 (-0.0135)

W German mark
3.4231 (-0.0307)

Trade-weighted
75.8 (-0.5)

Friendly in £6m deal

Friendly Hotels is to buy five hotels from the Virani Group for a cash and shares offer totalling £5.89 million.

Friendly intends raising £4.15 million in a rights issue of new convertible preference shares of which £2.65 million will be used for the cash element of the purchase. The rest of the price is made up of 303,030 Friendly Hotels ordinary shares and £2.83 million of new preference shares.

The deal, if approved by shareholders, will give Friendly a total of seven medium-price hotels, including the Central Hotel, Glasgow, formerly owned by British Rail.

Friendly has agreed to pay £1.75 million rent on the lease of the Eccleston Hotel, London, part of the Virani package.

Friendly's shares have been suspended at the company's request to allow the new shares to be listed and for shareholders to approve the acquisition. Trading is likely to be resumed on April 29.

Atlantic joy

Atlantic Computers, the computer leasing company, lifted profits from £10.5 million to £17.1 million before tax in the year to last December. Turnover was up from £96.1 million to £183 million and the final dividend is 1.7p against 1.13p.

Tempos, page 19

Brammer up

Brammer, the bearings distributor, lifted pretax profits from £10.2 million to £13.6 million in the year to December 31. Turnover was up from £86.5 million to £101 million, and the final dividend is 8p (5.25p).

Tempos, page 19

Debt transfer

Century Factors, Close Brothers' debt factoring subsidiary, has taken on most of the debt portfolio of Brown Shipley Factors. The value of the debts transferred is more than £4 million, and payment for the transfer, in cash, will equal their book value, subject to certain provisional retentions.

Bid referred

The Department of Trade and Industry has confirmed that the proposed acquisition by Cope Allman of Firth Cleveland Strip will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, on the grounds that the proposal raises issues of competition in the market for hardened and tempered steel strip.

Shops project

Capital and Counties is submitting a planning application for an £8.5 million shopping complex at Watford. The other partners in the proposed development are Watford Borough Council and the Sun Alliance Insurance group.

Hanson deal

The merger agreement under which SCM, the American company, became a subsidiary of Hanson Trust has been approved by SCM shareholders. Those who did not tender their shares before the offer closed will receive \$75 a share.

Allied to pay £1.27bn for Canada's Hiram Walker

By Alison Eadie

Allied-Lyons, the British brewing and food group whose brands include Double Diamond beer and Tetley tea, has reached agreement with Hiram Walker Resources, the Canadian conglomerate, to buy Hiram's spirits and wines division for Can\$2.6 billion (£1.27 billion).



Sir Derrick: defence not the motive

Hiram Walker Spirits is one of the largest distillers in the world and has more than 100 proprietary brands, including Canadian Club whisky, Ballantine's Scotch, Courvoisier cognac and Kahlua and Tia Maria liqueurs.

The purchase, if successfully completed, will increase Allied's size by around 40 per cent. Although Allied's chairman, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, said there was nothing defensive in the move, it will have the effect of raising Allied a much more difficult target for the Australian brewing group Elders EXL.

Elders' £1.7 billion bid for Allied lapsed in December, when it was referred to the

signed in Toronto on Monday. Allied approached the Canadian company after learning that it was on the receiving end of an unwelcome partial offer from Gulf Canada. Gulf has offered Can\$32 a share to try to increase its stake in Hiram Walker to 49 per cent.

Allied said yesterday its agreement to buy the drinks division should not be affected by Gulf's offer. Hiram's shares had anyway risen above the offer price to Can\$35 on the Canadian stock market.

The agreement is subject to Allied's shareholders' approval and clearance by the Office of Fair Trading and government departments in Canada and the United States. Allied, which controls about 15 per cent of the British Scotch market, largely through its Teachers brand, said the combined share of the British market would still be under 25 per cent - Hiram only has about 4 per cent.

Ballantine's, however, is the world's fourth largest selling Scotch and is the market

leader in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece and Switzerland. Allied and Hiram combined would have about 17 per cent of the world whisky market.

Hiram Walker Spirits made operating profits of Can\$282 million on turnover of Can\$1.52 billion in the year to August 31, 1985. Profits increased by only 1.4 per cent over 1984 due to flatness of demand in the US, which accounted for 56 per cent of Hiram's sales.

Allied has not detailed yet how it intends to pay for its purchase, but a mixture of debt and equity is expected to be used. Allied's gearing at the end of 1985-86 was 25 per cent, giving the company scope to raise its borrowings significantly. The company also said that whatever method of financing was used, there would be no earnings dilution.

Allied said the combination of the two wines and spirits divisions would give much greater muscle in the market place with stronger distribution.

Chase Manhattan millions enter UK home loans war

Chase Manhattan, the American bank, is committing hundreds of millions of pounds to the fiercely competitive home loans market in Britain over the next year, it announced yesterday.

Chase is planning to offer the full range of home loans, including repayment and endowment mortgages as well as pension home loans and remortgages. The business will be conducted through a network of life assurance offices and brokers, since Chase has no retail network in Britain.

The bank would not say exactly how much it planned to lend initially - a spokesman said it would be whatever the market demanded.

The bank said that its move into mortgages was part of its overall international consumer banking strategy, which was one of the main areas of

development.

The emphasis will be on fast service, it said, with a turnaround time of 48 hours between an application and the initial mortgage offer. The bank already offers mortgages in the United States, the Far East, Europe and Australia.

Chase follows other US banks into the British home loans business, most notably Citibank and Chemical Bank which entered the market over a year ago. Last year Citibank lent £79 million in home loans.

Last month the British clearing banks reaffirmed their commitment to mortgage lending by announcing aggressive new packages designed to win a larger share of the market from the building societies. A large number of foreign banks are also now keen to lend to British home

buyers, but most choose to do so through existing British institutions with established retail outlets. The banks have then simply to provide the finance.

Chase is offering an initial mortgage rate for repayment and endowment loans of 12.25 per cent. It is willing to consider 100 per cent loans on amounts up to £50,000, sinking to 80 per cent on amounts above £20,000. The bank is willing to lend up to £500,000 in a single loan.

Meanwhile, Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, is setting up a new licensed deposit taker to be called Hill Samuel Personal Finance, which will operate its expanding mortgage lending. The new operation will initially lend around £50 million in the first two years.

Companies 'face 33% rate rises'

Rate increases of up to 33 per cent are hitting businesses outside the Greater London area, according to a survey by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

The association called for a ceiling on rates increases and more consultation by local authorities with business ratepayers. It said the latest rate rises imposed more burdens on businesses at a time when the fall in oil prices had opened a window of opportunity for British industry to improve its output, exports and thus employment.

The association told Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a letter: "If a business cannot put up its prices to meet rate increases - and this in present circumstances is both undesirable and difficult - it must either cut back investment plans or sacrifice new or existing jobs".

The survey, out yesterday, showed there were swings increases outside the London area, the capital having benefited from the rate support grant, the association said.

Out of 50 rate increases tracked for important industrial areas outside London, 14 had rises of more than 20 per cent. 18 were up between 15 and 20 per cent, 11 were between 10 and 25 per cent and only seven had rises under 10 per cent.

New business rate poundages, including county precepts, were in 10 instances over 250p in the pound and 18 were between 200p and 250p in the pound.

Among those areas with rate rises of more than a quarter are Bradford, Calderdale, Kirkstiles, Wakefield and Rotherham in the Yorkshire and Humber area; Bolton and Blackpool in the North-west; Derby in the East Midlands; Cambridge in East Anglia; and, in the south, Aylesbury Vale with two other Buckinghamshire districts. Many county council precepts show big rises.

The association said rate capping could not be relied on to protect business ratepayers. It had been applied only to a limited number of local authorities, mostly in inner London. The association called for a business rates ceiling to be introduced as a fixed threshold above the rate of inflation.

New legal challenge by Argyll

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Mr James Gulliver's Argyll supermarkets group yesterday began a new legal challenge to the agreed £2.5 billion takeover bid by Guinness for Distillers, claiming that it ran counter to European Economic Community law.

Argyll, which has made a rival £2.5 billion bid for Distillers, said it had been advised by the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland, Mr David Prosser, that the proposed merger was prohibited by Article 86 of the Treaty of Rome. Proceedings are to begin today in the Edinburgh Court of Session.

Article 86 deals with abuses of a dominant market position within the Common Market. Guinness and Distillers have already satisfied British government concern about the effects of the merger on competition in the drinks market by promising to sell off a number of whisky brands, but they may still be at fault under EEC law.

It is open to any third party which may be harmed by a breach of EEC law to apply either through the British courts or the European Commission for relief.

Argyll said it was beginning proceedings in Scotland

Slough Estates shows 17% rise in profits

By Judith Hamley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Slough Estates, the property company with a heavy weighting in the industrial sector, has turned in pretax profits of £39.51 million for the year ended December 31, 1985 - a 17.6 per cent improvement on £33.59 million for the previous year.

A revaluation of the £774 million portfolio shows a 1.5 per cent increase in fully diluted net asset value, to 202p, below market expectations.

Slough's net asset value has been hit by £23 million currency losses. And the company says the internal valuation of the British and Canadian properties was carried out last September when the industrial market was more uncertain than it is now.

STC makes £26m sale

By Lawrence Lever

STC, the troubled telecommunications and computer group, is continuing its rationalisation with the sale of Computer Field Maintenance - a computer maintenance company - to the Granada Group for £26 million in cash. The sale follows STC's £10 million sale of its Telebank TV rental business to Granada and job cuts of 8,000 last year.

CFM, the market leader in

Oil fall 'will hit Eastern bloc's growth and export earnings'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The sharp fall in world oil prices has produced significant changes in prospects for the European economies, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

But while the effect is an almost unequivocal bonus for Western Europe, the Eastern bloc countries will suffer a loss of export earnings and lower growth in output.

The UN's *Economic Survey of Europe*, published annually, is the only major study and forecasts for both Eastern and Western Europe. The survey's conclusions for Western Europe are in line with the recently published forecasts.

Growth in the European Community should be around 3.5 per cent this year, and the sharp drop in oil prices has brought the market economies of the EEC into a non-inflationary situation, the report says.

The governments of Western Europe in these circumstances can take steps to further improve growth, although the strong growth already in prospect should result in lower levels of unemployment, the report says.

The centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union suffered a growth setback last year, with economic performance below that set out in annual plan targets. Unlike in Western Europe, the drop in world oil prices does not improve the short-term growth prospects.

The five-year plans of the Eastern European economies of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania, envisage average annual growth of 4.6 per cent during 1986-90, compared with an outturn of 2.2 per cent in 1981-85.

For the Soviet Union, growth of 3.5-4.1 per cent a year is planned, compared

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

N Sea oil nightmare still has to sink in

Not even the most pessimistic of oilmen in his blackest hour seriously believed that the oil price would fall below \$10 a barrel. Curiously, not many seem to believe it even now, despite the evidence of the market. Brent futures for June dipped to \$9.80 over the holiday weekend, and there can be no assurances that this represents the bottom.

The sinking oil price seems to be regarded as a temporary aberration by most of the producing companies that have reported results in the last few weeks. There is a touching faith that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will come to the rescue with production controls.

There is still a chance that Opec may be able to agree on a strategy to stabilize prices. But most of the very considerable ground the oil price has already lost to competitive forces can be regarded as lost irretrievably.

In the short term, while supply so decisively exceeds demand, there seems to be nothing to stop the oil price from falling further. Even at today's very low prices, the amount of production being cut is derisory.

There is now a very real possibility that the oil price will become more volatile, while remaining below \$15 a barrel. On present trends, an average for 1986 as a whole of as little as \$12 a barrel could be on the cards. Good news for the consumer, but a disaster for the North Sea companies.

Asset values are hit on two fronts. Not only do they fall as the oil price falls, but many deposits cease to be economically recoverable and have to be removed from the asset value calculation altogether. In these circumstances, much of the asset backing for share prices melts away.

To give discounted present values of estimated revenues from proven and probable reserves based on year-end prices as Tricentrol did at the time of the preliminary results is standard American practice. But a fall in oil prices of the magnitude seen since the year end renders the

exercise irrelevant. In fairness, Tricentrol shows the effect of an \$18 oil price, which is its estimate of 1986 prices. But by the time of the announcement, the price of Brent had fallen to \$12.50 and it would have been interesting to see the impact of this on the discounted cash flows.

In the face of dwindling cash flows, the oil independents' first priority is to survive. Sovereign omitted what would have been its first dividend payment. Tricentrol cut its dividend to a token 1p, when arguably it should have passed it altogether. Everywhere, exploration is being pared back to the bare minimum, and developments are being shelved.

Of the larger independents, only Enterprise Oil has still to report its 1985 results and is due to do so tomorrow. With its strong balance sheet and rising production profile, it is unlikely to cut its final dividend. Depending on the level of exploration write-offs, net income for the year to December 1985 is expected to be up slightly on 1984 at some £63 million.

But even Enterprise, whose oil output is expected to be up by 9 per cent next year, must feel uncomfortable at the prospect of oil at below \$15 per barrel. If it stays at these levels, a cut in the 1986 dividend may be inevitable.

In the event of a prolonged period of low oil prices, many of the North Sea production companies will fail to stay the course. Ironically, the two companies most likely to survive on their own merits, Enterprise and Brioil, are protected from takeover anyway by the Government's "golden shares".

Tricentrol is not so fortunate, and Trafalgar House is already sniffing at the prey. It announced a 5 per cent holding in Tricentrol yesterday, causing the shares to leap 10p to 80p. This may be the opening salvo in the biggest shakeout yet seen in the North Sea oil industry.

Belt-tightening at Opec

Whatever the impact of falling oil prices on British government revenues, it pales in comparison with the damage wrought to the national finances of the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries. An MITOT of Salomon Brothers demonstrates the direct effect on Opec's ability to finance growing current account deficits, which they now see as the key constraint.

It seems clear - according to their analysis - that Opec as a group cannot finance a current account deficit much in excess of \$10 billion a year. Even Saudi Arabia, the authors point out, was by 1984 running a current account deficit of \$24 billion, or 22 per cent of national income - equivalent to an \$800 billion deficit for the United States. Opec's huge deficit on services is not easy to cut, consisting as it does largely of interest payments and remittances to foreign workers. So imports will have to bear the brunt

of Opec's struggle to contain its deficit.

Taking \$15 a barrel as the average price for oil this year, the authors calculate that Opec would have to cut its combined imports from \$105 billion last year to \$45 billion this year in order to keep its current account deficit down to \$10 billion.

Taking a \$10 per barrel oil price as the average for 1986, the cut is even more dramatic: down to only \$19 billion this year. In later years, this analysis suggests, imports could rise again a little, as demand for oil increases in response to lower prices.

But the savage nature of the cuts required this year is further illustrated by expressing imports as a percentage of 1973 levels. Last year, Opec imported more than two and a half times as much as it did in 1973; with an average oil price of only \$10, it could afford to import a mere 39 per cent of its 1973 level of imports.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 1814.86 (-3.95)

Nikkei Dow 15745.87 (-113.88)

Hong Kong
Hang Seng (Market Closed) 257.2 (+3.9)

Australian
Sydney AO 1129.7 (-6.5)

Frankfurt
Commerzbank 2105.9 (+20.4)

Brussels
General 549.89 (+46.22)

Zurich
SKA General 509.40 (same)

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$330.70 pm-\$333.10
close \$328.00-\$329.00 (\$223.75-224.25)

New York
Comex \$330.75-\$331.25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

ISEE: Thorn EM 519p (+20p)

Pillington 470p (+25p)

SGE 372p (+30p)

J Ballan 125p (+17p)

Glymed 320p (+28p)

Ernst & Young 450p (+25p)

Vaux 250p (+25p)

Ud Discants 250p (+25p)

30-year bonds 123 1/2 (-12 1/2)

CURRENCIES

London: £ \$1.4685
\$ DM2.3510
\$ Sfr2.6577
\$ FF10.5181
£ Yen261.10
£ Index:75.8

New York: £ \$1.4685
\$ DM2.3510
\$ Sfr2.6577
\$ FF10.5181
£ Yen261.10
£ Index:75.8

ECU £0.836027
SDR £1.74

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 11 1/2%
3-month Interbank 11 1/2-11 3/4%
3-month eligible bills: 10 1/2-10 3/4%
buying rate

US: Prime Rate 9%
Funds 7 1/2-7 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 8.30-8.28%
30-year bonds 123 1/2-123 1/4%

Oil fall 'will hit Eastern bloc's growth and export earnings'

The sharp fall in world oil prices has produced significant changes in prospects for the European economies, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

But while the effect is an almost unequivocal bonus for Western Europe, the Eastern bloc countries will suffer a loss of export earnings and lower growth in output.

The UN's *Economic Survey of Europe*, published annually, is the only major study and forecasts for both Eastern and Western Europe. The survey's conclusions for Western Europe are in line with the recently published forecasts.

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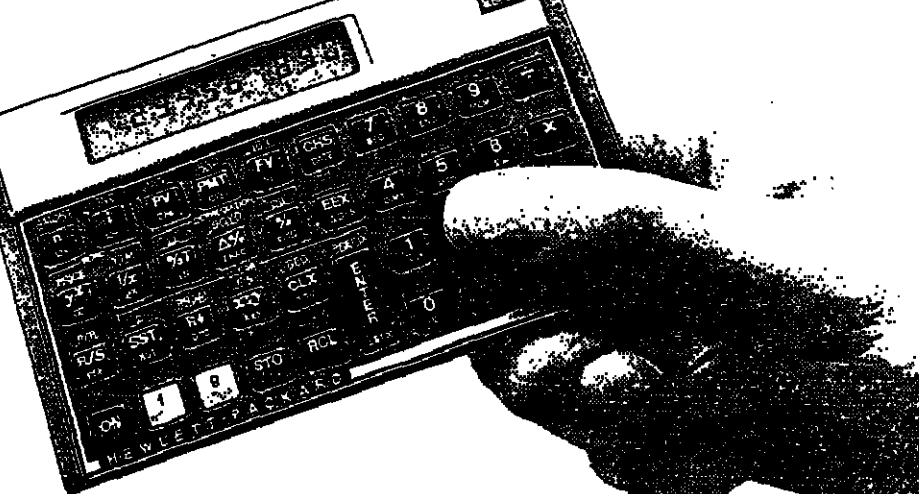
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For the Soviet Union, growth of 3.5-4.1 per cent a year is planned, compared

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WALL STREET

Share prices turned mixed on Monday after reaching record levels earlier in the day. Trading was subdued after the holiday, despite hopes of a further cut in interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 3.11 points at 1,818.61, after last Thursday's record.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., AMR, ASA, Allied Signal) and their corresponding prices and changes.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., Amgen, Amstar, Amstar) and their corresponding prices and changes.

● JAMES DICKIE & COMPANY: A final dividend of 0.75p (0.5p), making a total of 1.25p (0.5p) is payable for the year to October 31, 1985. With figures in £000, turnover was 5,167 (4,261), pretax profit 51 and attributable profit 69 (36). Earnings per share were 3.72p (1.95p).

● LAURENCE GOULD & COMPANY: A final dividend of 2.2p is payable, making 3.6p (3.3p) for the year to December 31, 1985. With figures in £000, turnover was 6,255 (5,865 adjusted) and trading profit 411 (378) after staff profit sharing scheme 73 (42). Earnings per share were 13.32p.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table showing exchange rates for various currencies like New York, Frankfurt, London, etc.

Notes supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Excal. *Lloyds Bank International

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing money market rates for Base Rates, Discount Market Loans, Treasury Bills, etc.

EURO AREA DEPOSITS %

Table showing deposit rates for various currencies like Dollar, Swiss Franc, etc.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices for Gold 329.00-329.00, Kruggerand, etc.

ECGD

Table showing ECGD rates for Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing futures prices for Three Month Sterling, US Treasury Bond, etc.

The pound improved from early lows yesterday and the dollar slipped in very quiet trading, although sterling remained weaker on the overnight level against the dollar. The pound also closed above the mark, sterling managed to remain relatively steady despite oil fears as it is still underpinned by the level of British interest rates, according to observers.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing sterling rates for Argentina, Australia, Hong Kong, etc.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE table showing prices for Soyabean meal, coffee, cocoa, etc.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table showing prices for various metals like Copper, Zinc, etc.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION table showing prices for various types of meat and livestock.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES table showing futures prices for various types of meat.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES table showing futures prices for various types of grain.

LONDON OIL table showing prices for various types of oil.

LONDON SILVER table showing prices for various types of silver.

LONDON TANKER table showing prices for various types of tanker services.

LONDON INVESTMENT TRUSTS table showing prices for various investment trusts.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

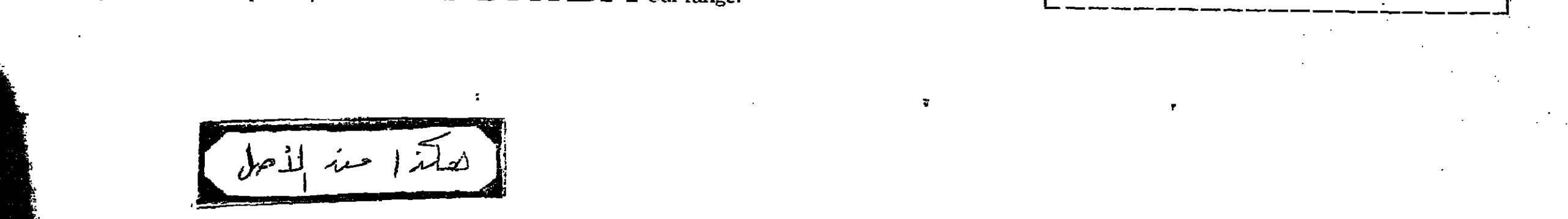
Table showing prices for various financial trusts like Allied & Southern, American Express, etc.



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TEMPUS

Atlantic cuts down its reliance on IBM

Doing business with IBM can be a mixed blessing. Atlantic Computers, which yesterday announced profits of £17.1 million before tax, up from £10.5 million, has clearly benefited from the connection in the past. Over half of last year's profit came from IBM-related business, specifically the supply of IBM computer systems on long lease.

The other side of the coin is that Atlantic can hardly fail to be hit by the expected slowdown in IBM business in the second and third quarters of this year. It is confident, however, of a recovery towards the end of the year.

Atlantic claims that the effect of the current round of IBM price cuts is marginal, but in the long term, it must tend to make customers increasingly reluctant to take up long leases from Atlantic when there is a likelihood that by the end of the lease prices on the open market will have fallen significantly.

This means that progress in the future could be slower. This year will not have the benefit of 12 orders for large computer systems based on the new IBM mainframe, as did last year. There will, however, be growth overseas following the start of an American operation and an increased contribution from the newly acquired British distributor to Digital Equipment Corporation. In addition, the company hopes to make two or three acquisitions.

Increasing diversification makes Atlantic less reliant on IBM and reduces the proportion of profits coming from the company's residual interests in leased computers. Last year this fell dramatically from 60 per cent to 12 per cent after provisions, but next year the proportion should rise again to about 25 per cent.

The general trend, however, is towards better quality earnings. With that in mind a multiple of just seven times earnings, assuming profits of £23 million in 1986, with the shares at 295p, looks fair.

McKechnie Bros/ Newman Tonks

The gloves are off at last in the takeover bid by McKechnie Brothers for the Newman Tonks Group. The offer closes today. A public row about Newman Tonks's American turnover

was followed last week by claims and counterclaims about McKechnie's first-half profits.

But, while the temperature has risen, Newman Tonks shares have stuck at around 130p, 11p below the value of the shares-plus-cash offer and comfortably above the 134p cash alternative.

At this level Newman Tonks is seeking to assure shareholders that the increase in the share price - it was 98p before the offer - represents a genuine re-rating. In an unusual move, the joint brokers to the company, Fielding Newton-Smith and Albert E Sharp, have written to shareholders, claiming that the share price should not fall if the bid fails. There are also confident assurances about the ease - and profit - with which McKechnie could unload its 15 per cent stake.

On the forecast 25 per cent increase in pretax profits for the year to October, Newman Tonks is selling on 11.6 times prospective earnings. After an uninspiring dividend record over the past few years - albeit partly because Newman Tonks never cut its payout during the difficult early 80s - shareholders have been promised a 30 per cent increase, which means a yield of more than 7 per cent. With the full benefits of last year's Cartwright acquisition still to come, 1987 profits of around £10 million would push the p/e below 10.

On the question of industrial logic, the two companies have adopted different strategies over the past few years. While Newman Tonks has shifted its business away from semi-finished goods and into higher margin branded products, McKechnie has concentrated on high volume plastics and consumer commodities where price is all important. At the time of the first offer Newman Tonks had become a forgotten stock, and McKechnie identified a potentially cheap way to expand into related value-added areas.

The bid looks set to fail, and rightly so at this price, but it served its prime purpose for McKechnie - deflecting the Williams Holdings bid. For Newman Tonks the higher profile in the City over the past week has won the company new friends.

It only remains for McKechnie shareholders to wonder whether it was sensible to tender the Williams bid

by giving the go-ahead for a takeover offer which never seemed to get off the ground.

Brammer

Brammer shareholders deserve to be rewarded for their loyalty. Last summer they rejected a 420p-a-share cash offer from Buzell, only to see their shares fall to 280p. Since then they have climbed fairly steadily but at yesterday's price of 373p there is still some way to go.

While the figures for 1985 confirm that the company has made steady progress, they give no grounds for an early bounce in the share price. Profits were up from £10.2 million to £13.6 million before tax. That compares with a forecast made as part of the bid defence, for £12 million for the original group plus an annual contribution of £4 million before financing costs from Energy Services & Electronics.

ESE was included for only six months so the outcome was roughly in line with the forecasts. It would have been better if ESE had not suffered from the general electronics malaise towards the end of the year.

While 1986 will have the benefit of a 12-month contribution from ESE, it is possibly less than £4 million, it will suffer from the sale of two companies to Readicut for £6.1 million. These contributed £1.44 million above the line last year and £2.4 million below the line by way of a profit on disposal.

The company says that there is plenty of scope for improvement within the existing businesses. It is looking for improvement from the traditional bearings distribution business and from the newer electronics components operation. For the moment acquisitions have second priority although, with net debt of only £4 million, there is little in the way of a financial constraint.

Shareholders might like to be reassured about ESE's contribution before more shares are issued for an acquisition. It accounts for 29 per cent of the equity, but it is probably contributing rather less in the way of profits and earnings. Until it is seen to be doing better than this shareholders will continue to question their collective wisdom in effectively rejecting Buzell's bid in favour of the acquisition of ESE.

Financial services gear up for PEPs

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

There are signs that some financial services companies in the City are already gearing up to offer Personal Equity Plans, outlined in the Budget, as soon as the scheme comes into operation in January 1987.

The PEP scheme has been widely criticised as offering insufficient tax incentives to attract investors and has provoked scepticism from financial services companies which doubt they can offer schemes on a profitable basis.

Details of the scheme have yet to be worked out by the Government, but so far the plan is to offer capital gains and investment tax relief on investments within a PEP.

Fidelity International, the unit trust and investment management group, however, has already outlined plans for the possible shape of a PEP.

Mr Alan Ainsworth, Fidelity International's marketing director, said yesterday: "We believe we can run schemes on our computer system, which already exists to service our other investment management activities, and make money on PEPs."

"We are working on the assumption that unit and investment trusts will be excluded as vehicles for PEPs. What the Government is aiming for is direct equity investment by individuals with the intermediation of investment vehicles."

Mr Ainsworth said the scheme would work on a pooled basis, rather like unit trusts, and thus benefit from cheaper bulk purchases. "We would receive monthly contributions and pool them."

"We would then immediately invest the money in a range of stocks which would go into each investor's PEP on a pro rata basis." Each plan would probably have around 30 blue chip stocks in it - slightly fewer than in a trust - but enough to spread the risk.

"Our research suggests that people would like actively managed discretionary portfolios," Mr Ainsworth said. "The annual management charge is likely to be less than the 1 per cent traditionally charged on unit trusts, but it is hard to say exactly how much less at this stage. It depends what other services are included, such as regular portfolio valuations."

There would also be a fairly low minimum investment. He added that PEPs were likely to become popular, not because of the tax benefits but because they would give the investment industry a marketing focus in selling to the public.

Shares climb back over 1,400

After a sluggish start share prices began to climb again yesterday, with the FT 30-share index going back above 1400.

The index rose by 12.2 points to close at 1402.2 and the FT-SE index of 100 shares gained 15.2 at 1684.0.

The backlog of weekend press comment kept speculative investors busy. Trading, however, was fairly light, many dealers apparently extending their holiday break.

Gilt advanced a full point, both at the longer end and in index-linked stocks, as the US long bond went higher amid hopes of a further cut in the federal reserve discount rate.

Leaders gained as much as 10p. Exceptionally, Thorn EMI increased 20p to 519p as the company offered a stake in its Immos subsidiary to Japanese concern Matsushita.

British Telecom, on the day the shares went fully paid, added 5p to 266p. Vickers put on 10p to 493p; Blue Circle

went ahead 8p to 671p and Boots 8p to 274p. Beecham, after press comment, was 5p higher at 366p.

Allied-Lyons, on acquisition news, fell 7p to 31p. Speculative favourite of the day was Pilkington, a regular subject of bid gossip, up 25p to 470p.

Building shares showed some good advances, with Amec up 3p to 267p ahead of results tomorrow. SGB, on

press comment, put on 30p to 372p.

Engineering shares firmed ahead of their dividend season. Smiths Industries, which declared its interim on April 9, was up 6p to 325p and Glynwed, with results next Monday, was up 17p to 379p.

Stores were in demand. Among the better rises were Burton ahead 14p to 342p, Combined English 5p to 265p and Gus A up 35p to 1022p.

On the bid front, Imperial Group gained 4p to 348p. Argyl put on 7p to 348p; the company yesterday started a court action aimed at blocking the Guinness bid for Distillers.

The Express deal helped United Newspapers to a 32p rise at 355p.

Oils were dull as the price of crude fell below \$10 a barrel. BP was down 3p to 555p.

Among companies reporting, Emess Lighting advanced 26p to 320p, after announcing profits up 51 per cent.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES, and RECENT ISSUES. Includes entries like SAC Int'l (100p), SFP (125p), and various other stock prices.

Competition shake-up call for consulting engineers

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Consulting engineers serving the construction industry should change their rules to promote greater competition and freer advertising, Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, has urged.



Sir Gordon Borrie: may take further action

His challenge to the Association of Consulting Engineers, one of the leading professional bodies, has come in a wide-ranging report on the advertising and charging rules of professions serving the construction industry. The professions include architects, quantity surveyors and professional engineers.

After an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission there was agreement that there should be more competition, although some professions still have recommended fee scales instead of the old mandatory ones. Advertising is freer but still suffers from some restrictions in some cases.

The ACE, which has about 1,200 individual members from 600 consulting engineering practices, was told in Sir Gordon's report that it should change one of its rules of professional conduct to remove a potentially restrictive effect on its members' ability to compete on fee scales. Another rule, "significantly restricts" ACE members' freedom to advertise, according to the report.

Sir Gordon, in recommending to government ministers that they should look first to professional bodies to act,

Tisch may hold key to CBS

From Our Correspondent New York

The takeover saga at CBS took another twist when the \$3.74 billion cash bid by Mr Marvin Davis was rejected by the board, but experts say that the next move may be made by an unlikely savior.

Mr Lawrence Tisch, chairman of the Loews Corporation, is the biggest CBS shareholder, with a 12.3 per cent stake. Wall Street analysts say Mr Tisch holds all the cards so he may be the only person who knows how the saga will end.

Mr Tisch was brought into the CBS fold after Mr Ted Turner's abortive bid for the company in October. Elected to the board, he sided with Mr William Paley, the CBS founder, who owns 8.3 per cent of the stock, but many analysts suspect that his loyalties may not lie with Mr Paley if a high bid comes.

Mr Davis, whose bid was rejected last Tuesday, is said to be keen to re-enter the entertainment field since his sale of 20th Century Fox to Mr Rupert Murdoch last year. But, while the oil billionaire's bid for CBS was low, industry analysts expect him to raise it within the next few weeks.

CBS says that it wants to stay independent, and some experts believe that response will discourage higher bids. If Mr Davis makes a new offer and the board rejects it, some shareholders may sue the CBS board for breach of fiduciary duty.

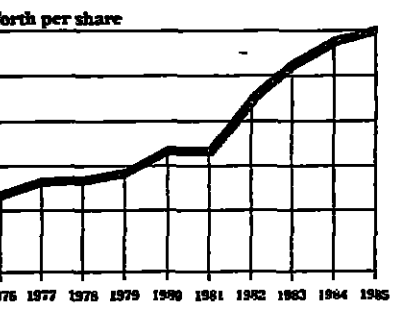
COMPANY NEWS

- STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES (HOLDINGS): Interim dividend 1.33p (1p). With figures in 2000, pretax profit for the six months to October 31 was 678 (651). Earnings per share 7.7p (6.3). Dividend 5.4p (4.5).
INDUSTRIAL SCOTLAND ENERGY: The chairman, Mr T M Bisset, said that the collapse in oil prices was likely to lead to a decrease in 1986 revenues and would result in cuts in exploration programmes, slowing the discovery rate of reserves.
ELECTROLUX: The bid to acquire White Cons was conditional on the owners of at least 8.7 million shares accepting the offer by March 28. The owners of 10.9 million shares had by March 26 accepted the offer, which ensured its success.
UNIDARE: Allied Irish Investment Bank is expected to acquire 6.8 million ordinary shares (66 per cent) at 175p a share with Dublin institutional investors. Alcan has disposed of its entire stake.
MARTIN CURRIE PATHEC TRUST: The directors have recommended a dividend of 0.45p net per share for the period ended February 28. Dividend reflects the high level of interest on cash deposits awaiting investment during the earlier part of the period, which can be regarded as exceptional. This year's dividend does not necessarily reflect the level of future earnings. Pretax profit 17,987. Earnings per share 0.63p.
CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS: Agreement has been signed for the issue by Gold Fields Finance BV of SFR116 million 5-1/8 per cent bonds in 1986 under a guarantee of Consolidated Gold Fields at 100-1/4 per cent.
FIFE INDMAR: The chairman, Mr G A H Hepburn, said that, although the products division had a slow start, he expected effects of rationalisation to show in the second half. The market for ironmongery in foreseeable future, but modest improvement could be expected from ironmongery. Prospects in

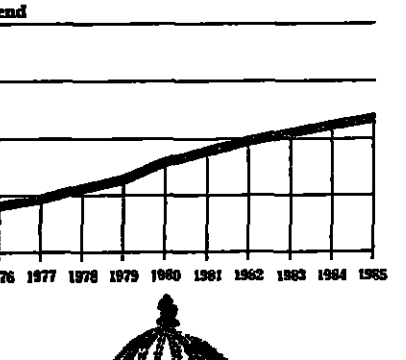
- complete the agreement with Reliant Motor to acquire the manufacturing rights for the Scimitar GTE/GTRC for £500,000. The company is considering alternative proposals for the disposal of the rights.
RUGBY PORTLAND CEMENT: Cockburn Cement final dividend 5.75c (5.25) for 1985. Figures in 2000: Trading surplus 15,401 (13,403); interest 871 (820); depreciation 3,679 (3,792); tax 4,537 (4,118).
COMMON BROTHERS: Year to June 30, 1985, no dividend. (same). Earnings per share 26.274 (20.082). Loss per share 418p (281p).
GOAL PETROLEUM: The company is to acquire Third Trion Petroleum whose principal asset is a 0.5 per cent interest in the Claymore oil field.
CITY & FOREIGN INVESTMENT: Harvard Securities intends to make an offer to acquire all of the ordinary shares it does not already own.
CCA GALLERIES: With figures in 2000, turnover rose to 3,551 (2,948), gross profit to 1,972 (1,588) and pretax profit was up 29.7 per cent to 432 (333). Earnings per share were 7.1p (5.5p).
EMESS LIGHTING: A dividend of 3.5p making 5.5p, payable on May 24, has been declared for the year ending December 31. With figures in 2000, turnover rose to 30,679 (22,160) and profit after tax to 2,018 (1,406). Earnings per share were up to 14.3p (11.40p).
GLANDFIELD LAWRENCE: Turnover for 1985 (comparisons amended and figures in 2000) was down to 10,759 (19,364). Pretax profit was 25 (251) loss. Earnings per share before extraordinary items were 0.3p (2.2p) loss.
ROTAFLEX: A final dividend of 3.6p making 5p (4.5p) for 1985 has been announced. With figures in 2000, turnover was up to 50,056 (41,229) and pretax profit to 21,229 (17,748). Pretax profit rose to 3,182 (2,757).

Positive evidence of recovery shows through

1985 Result There was an increased pre-tax profit of £41.4m (1984: £11.2m). The underlying increase in general insurance written premiums of 24% was almost entirely due to much higher prices on existing business.



Life operations The increase in Royal Life's pre-tax profits was again substantial - up over 22% to £26.4m. Long-term business potential has been further enhanced by the purchase of Lloyd's Life, shortly to be re-named Royal Heritage Life Assurance Ltd.



Net worth The net worth of the company increased to over £1.9 billion inclusive of the balance sheet value of the existing business of Royal Life and Lloyd's Life of £320m; the directors consider the 'going concern' value of these companies to be at least £600m.

Dividend The recommended final dividend is 16.55p per share, making a total for the year of 25.75p. The increase over 1984 of 8.4% recognises the greater freedom the prospect of improving profits gives us and remains in line with our long standing policy of regularly increasing dividends.

Prospects With some two thirds of our worldwide general premium income coming from commercial insurance classes we are well placed to take advantage of the sharply improving trading conditions in these classes and to build upon the achievements of the past year.

Royal Insurance logo and contact information: Please send me a copy of the Report & Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1985. Name: Address: To: The Secretary, Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

BASE LENDING RATES table with columns for bank names and interest rates. Includes ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, Citibank Savings, etc.

Investor fuels bid talk

Mr Alan Clore, a London-based investor, has raised his stake in a US pharmaceutical company, fuelling speculation that it may be a potential takeover target. Rorer, a Pennsylvania concern that has acquired Revlon's prescription drugs business from Pantry Pride, has been the subject of takeover speculation for months. Mr Clore said he had raised his stake in Rorer to 13 per cent from 9 per cent and that he had formed a partnership with a dissident Rorer shareholder from Florida.

Royal Insurance logo and address: Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

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Imperial shareholders.

The Form.

FORM OF ACCEPTANCE, AUTHORITY AND ELECTION **UB**
United Biscuits (Holdings) plc Recommended Offer for
Imperial Group public limited company
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2.
 Acceptance of the Offer is on the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Offer Document. The provisions of paragraph 8 of Appendix II to the Offer Document are incorporated in and form part of this Form of Acceptance.

TO ACCEPT THE OFFER
COMPLETE BOX 1 and COMPLETE
BOXES 4 AND 5 BELOW

BOX 1
 NUMBER OF IMPERIAL ORDINARY SHARES
500

Your signature could enable you to enjoy an income 17.5% greater than that from the highest Hanson offer.

We, the Imperial Board, urgently and unanimously recommend you to reject the unwelcome Hanson bid and accept the United Biscuits' offer without delay.

The UB Offer:

- Is fair and reasonable and represents an excellent deal for Imperial shareholders.
- Delivers a gross income of £24.68 for every 100 Imperial shares: 17.5% better than that from the Hanson alternative with the highest capital value.
- Gives you a valuable investment in a major fast-growing consumer business.

There will be no more offers – from either United Biscuits or Hanson Trust.

So please complete your white UB acceptance form immediately.

United Biscuits' forms must be received by 3:00 pm on Friday, 11th April 1986. This is the final closing date for the UB offer.

This is your last opportunity to help create a great new British consumer company – United Imperial – and benefit from its highly profitable future.



The bases on which the income differential of 17.5% is calculated are as set out in Appendix 1 of Imperial's circular dated 26th March 1986. This advertisement is published by Hambros Bank Ltd. on behalf of Imperial Group plc. The directors of The Imperial Group plc. (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly.

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1985 FINAL RESULTS

Swire Pacific Limited

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1985

The profit for 1985 before the extraordinary item was HK\$1,225.9 million, representing an increase of 28.4% as compared with HK\$954.4 million in 1984, as adjusted. In addition, in 1985 there was an extraordinary profit of HK\$59.1 million (1984: nil). The audited consolidated results were:

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1985 HK\$m, 1984 HK\$m. Rows include Turnover, Operating profit, Net operating profit, Profit before taxation, Profit after taxation, Earnings per share, Dividends per share, and Net assets per share.

The profit for 1985 before the extraordinary item increased by 28.4% and additionally there was an extraordinary profit of HK\$59.1 million (1984: nil). During 1985, the Group changed its method of accounting for finance leases...

Capitalisation issue of two new 'A' shares for each 'A' share held and two new 'B' shares for each 'B' share held on 25th April 1986. The new shares will rank pari passu with the existing shares...

Prospects. Cathay Pacific Airways expects an improvement in profits during 1986, on the basis that the present generally favourable market conditions persist. The improved climate within the Hong Kong property market should continue and Swire Properties again expects improved results in 1986...

Final dividends. The directors of Swire Pacific Limited will recommend to shareholders at the annual general meeting on 25th May 1986 the payment of final dividends of 97¢ (1984: 87¢) per 'A' share and 18.4¢ (1984: 17.4¢) per 'B' share payable on 2nd June 1986 to shareholders on the register of members on 25th April 1986...

Once again, the final dividends will be satisfied by the issue of scrip to each class of shareholder, with the option being given to shareholders to elect to receive cash in lieu of scrip in respect of part or all of such dividends. Full details of the scrip dividend procedures will be set out in a circular letter which, together with the forms of election for the payment of cash dividends, will be sent to shareholders on 5th May 1986.

Capitalisation (bonus) issue. The directors will recommend a

H.M.P. Miles Chairman

Hong Kong, 26th March 1986

Swire Pacific Limited The Swire Group Swire House, Hong Kong.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

London exchange adopts new look

London's campaign to reassert its prominence as an international commodity trading centre took a decisive step forward yesterday with the introduction of a new legal and administrative structure for the London Commodity Exchange.

All the former members of the cocoa, coffee and sugar terminal market associations have become shareholders in the new company, the London Commodity Exchange (1986) Limited, which, it is hoped, will speak for soft commodity futures trading in London with one voice.

The only exception is the International Petroleum Exchange, which, because it had no assets, could not convert them into shares in the new LCE. But 33 of the 35 IPE members are also members of the LCE. The IPE board has voted to move to Commodity Quay, the £5 million new home for the LCE which is due to be occupied on the Tuesday after Easter next year.

The reorganisation has been completed only six months since Mr Saxon Tate, the LCE's executive chairman, put up his original proposals. He said: "Our first priority must be the welfare of existing businesses. Promotion of existing contracts is to be favoured over the investment of new ones."

The second priority, Mr Tate said, must be to improve volume. The LCE hopes to exploit its rule changes and the provisions of the Financial Services Bill - expected to become law in the summer - to bring in locals (individual floor

traders operating on their own account) and to encourage private investors in commodity futures.

Mr Tate commented: "We have got to get that volume curve going again. We've got to get existing owners and customers saying, 'These people have grasped the nettle, they're improving the climate for doing business in London.'"

To set up the new LCE, the assets of the terminal market associations were divided equally between their members. Those divided assets were then converted into LCE shares at the rate of £1 for £1. Of the more than 50 firms who are members of the new LCE, around a dozen are noticeably bigger shareholders than the rest, chiefly because they were members of all the markets.

When the LCE does turn its attention to new contracts, the focus is likely to be on traded options on existing contracts. But the exchange is anxious to avoid the mistake of inadequate education about and marketing of new contracts.

Mr Tate said that in the past "we didn't put enough preparation into education, into the market, into ensuring that there were market makers on the floor."

For the moment, however, the LCE's budget is unlikely to be much bigger than before. Mr Tate said: "We're not aiming to do anything wild this year." But in the longer run the LCE will consider jointly promoting with other London exchanges the City as a commodity futures trading centre.

Michael Prest

Tax relief comes before set-off

Colbard (Inspector of Taxes) v Mining & Industrial Holdings Ltd

Before Mr Justice Walton (Judgment given March 14)

For the purposes of computing liability to corporation tax, credit for double taxation relief was to be allowed before any set-off for advanced corporation tax (ACT) was made. The Crown's case that the ACT set-off should be made first produced a most seriously unjust result that was not supported by the statutory provisions.

Mr Justice Walton so held in dismissing the Crown's appeal from the determination of a single special commissioner allowing a claim by the taxpayer company, Mining & Industrial Holdings Ltd, for full relief by way of credit for foreign tax for its accounting period to June 1980.

The taxpayer company, a subsidiary of Consolidated Gold Fields plc, carried on the business of a mining finance house in the United Kingdom. For the 1980 accounting period it claimed relief under section 49(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 from double taxation by way of credit for foreign withholding tax and foreign underlying tax in respect of dividends it had received from overseas companies.

Its profits for the period consisted of income not subject to double tax and non-control and control dividends subject to foreign tax. It had paid ACT by reference to dividends of £2.2 million that it had paid during the accounting period. It appealed to the commissioner against the refusal of the tax inspector to allow in full its claim for relief.

Mr Stephen Oliver, QC and Mr Alan Moses for the Crown; Mr Andrew Park, QC, for the taxpayer company.

MR JUSTICE WALTON said that the case concerned the inter-relationship of double taxation relief (DTR) and advanced corporation tax. DTR arose under Part 18 of the 1970 Act and was to be a credit against tax payable in the United Kingdom. The provisions in section 301 enforced the idea that a company would compute its corporation tax liability in respect of its chargeable income and then reduce that amount of tax by the amount of the credit.

However limits and restrictions were placed on DTR, for example, section 305 restricted it to an effective rate of 52 per cent - being the rate of corporation tax at the time.

ACT was introduced by section 84 of the Finance Act 1972 where a company made a "qualifying distribution". Section 85 provided for ACT to be set off against a company's corporation tax liability on its income.

Thus the taxpayer company had a further sum to be set against its liability to corporation tax - that was against its liability for the balance after the deduction of its DTR.

But the Crown contended that that was not the order of events and DTR was only available after ACT had been taken into account and taken into account in a particular way.

The result, bearing in mind that the DTR limits, was an increase in tax payable of £254,137. ACT, said the Crown, had to be spread ratably across the different sorts of the taxpayer company's income.

But the Crown was right the result would be that because the taxpayer company had paid a dividend during the year it had thereby become liable to pay £254,137 more in tax than if it had not done so. Unless driven to it by the language of the Act, such a monstrously unjust conclusion should not be reached.

How did the Crown reach such a conclusion? It was not an arbitrary whim; it thought that it had a peg on which to hang such a conclusion in section 100(6) of the 1972 Act.

That provision, it was said, placed the taxpayer company under a mandatory duty to allocate its ACT to such of its income as it thought fit.

Mr Park contended that section 100(6) was not mandatory but merely gave the taxpayer company a power of allocation and having chosen not to exercise that power the ACT was, in accordance with section 85(1) to be put against the totality of its chargeable income, thereby reducing the amount payable to nil.

Did section 100(6) impose such a duty on the taxpayer company? There was no case as to what precisely that provision was saying.

But it would be astonishing that the matter should have been cast in the way that it had been if the intention was that a company be forced to exercise a power that a company would compute its corporation tax liability in respect of its chargeable income and then reduce that amount of tax by the amount of the credit.

Section 301 of the 1970 Act and ACT were to be brought into account. Those clearly stated provisions, he said, set aside as a result of section 100(6).

The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue, Freshfields.

Sentencing dishonest baggage handlers

Regina v Dunsany and Others. Consideration of a sentence of three years' imprisonment should be the starting point when sentencing for persistent pilfering committed by baggage handlers at airports. The imposition of 100 hours or lighter punishment than that should be considered with regard to the particular circumstances in each case and to any particular mitigation there might be.

Lord Justice Watkins so stated when, sitting with Mr Justice McNeill and Mr Justice Otton on March 24 the Court of Appeal allowed appeals against sentences of imprisonment ranging from three to four years imposed on 15 men who had pleaded guilty on January 10, 1986 in Aylesbury Crown Court (Judge Versey) to specimen counts of theft or attempted theft at Heathrow Airport. In each case the sentence of imprisonment was reduced to two and a half years.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that it was beyond doubt that immediate terms of imprisonment were of R v Barrick (1985).

Cr App R 78) [in which guidelines were given on sentencing in breach of trust cases] was not fully applicable to the present case. It was right, therefore, to attempt to assist others who might have to sentence dishonest baggage handlers.

For persistent pilfering of the kind committed by these appellants three years' imprisonment was the starting point.

Their Lordships found it impossible to distinguish between these appellants as the sentencing judge had done. A team of four appellants were seriously at fault than a baggage handler; he had no authority over the handler.

The only redeeming feature in respect of any of them was the fact that they had pleaded guilty. That might have helped to reduce their sentences from two years to two but for the fact that without the installation of police video cameras it was unlikely that their conceded dishonesty would have been uncovered.

The amount of reduction they could get was beyond doubt, and in each case a sentence of two and a half years would be substituted.

Compensation order guidelines

Regina v Scott. Considerations to be borne in mind when making compensation orders were set out by the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice McNeill and Mr Justice Otton), on March 18 in allowing an appeal by Roger Scott against a compensation order imposed on him on August 19, 1981 in Gloucester Crown Court (Judge Hutton) for offences of obtaining property by deception.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the court had endeavoured, as the authorities showed, to impress upon judges that compensation orders should not be made without careful inquiry by the court into the defendant's ability to pay.

Once the court was satisfied about his ability, if it were minded to give him time to pay.

That period should not be excessive. A compensation order should be precise, for example, as to the dates of first and last instalments. That ought, by now, to be absolutely clear in the minds of judges.

If the court embarked on consideration of the manner of payment, it should bear in mind that the court which would have to deal with enforcement and the consequences of non-compliance with the order was a magistrate's court.

Accordingly, unless as the Crown Court the circumstances were such that it was realistic for an order to be made to be paid in instalments then the court should content itself with merely making an order for compensation, thus allowing the ordinary consequences to follow the giving of the order by magistrates to deal with the process of enforcement on non-compliance.

Function of the court welfare departments

Scott v Scott. The court welfare department's function in contested custody hearings was to assist the court by investigating the circumstances of the child or children concerned and the important figures in their lives so as to provide the court with factual information on which to make a decision.

It was desirable that there should be successful conciliation but that was not the only purpose of the department provided. Although it was for the judge to make the decision, the court welfare department's recommendations could be of great help to the judge and their investigations were of great importance.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON

Notice to Members and Depositors

WITH EFFECT FROM 1st APRIL, 1986, THE FOLLOWING INTEREST RATES WILL APPLY TO INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS:

Table with 2 columns: Account Type, Interest Rate. Rows include Paid-Up Shares (6.00% equivalent to 8.45%), Instant Access Account (8.30% equivalent to 11.68%), Bonus Shares Plus (8.35% equivalent to 11.76%), A.I.C.'s to Pension Schemes (11.75% gross), and Pension Funds (10.50% gross).

THE RATES OF INTEREST PAID ON ALL OTHER TYPES OF ACCOUNT WILL BE REDUCED BY 1% EXCEPT (BONUS SHARE SCHEME 2.7 AND 28 WHICH WILL BE REDUCED BY 1.5%). INTEREST ON BONUS SHARES IS PAID OTHER THAN ANNUALLY. THE RATES QUOTED SHOULD BE REDUCED BY 0.25%.

GROSS EQUIVALENT NET PAYERS WITH BASIC RATE INCOME TAX (AT THE RATE APPLICABLE FROM 06/04/86) PAID.

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At last some help for the hard pressed Imperial shareholder. Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of each of the offers for your company.

In order to be perfectly fair, the values we've quoted are based on the best possible offers.

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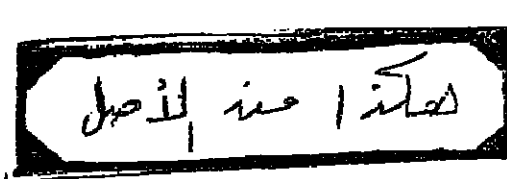
HANSON BID WORTH: 369.0p

HANSON BID BETTER BY: +20.0p

Figures based on the market prices at 3.30pm on Tuesday.

HANSON TRUST CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

The values of Hanson Trust's offers depend on its share price. The above offer values are for Hanson Trust's Shares and Convertible Shares £1000 and take account of an estimate of Hanson Trust Ltd of the value of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson Trust.



LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME



We talk and you listen, no. You talk and we listen, yes.

Ask ALFRED MARKS



BERKELEY SQUARE C. £12,000
A senior partner of this small but exclusive firm of executive search consultants needs a fast thinking and well educated PA/Secretary with a good sense of humour. As well as providing a first class secretarial back up to him you will also be responsible for assisting with the smooth running of the office. Rusty shorthand, audio and W.P. Age 23-30.

VICTORIA C. £11,000
This exclusive and fast moving financial company needs a first class young secretary for their Managing Director. Speeds 90/60 + audio. Age 23-28.

MAGAZINE, WI TO £9,000
A newly appointed Director of this prestigious magazine group is looking for a bright Secretary/PA to help organise her busy schedule. The successful applicant will be well-presented, enthusiastic and a born organiser. Age 25ish. Speeds 100/70.

COBBOLD AND DAVIS RECRUITMENT LTD.
35 Bruton Place W1. 01-493 7789

OFFICE MANAGER £10,500+
An efficient experienced and resourceful PA is required by a busy City based Office. Good shorthand and typing skills. Must be able to interact with clients, and the show in briefs, interviews & telephone calls. Little shorthand & typing. Live position in the London office. Part of an International Corporation.

CITY: 01-481 2345
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SEC TO MD £20,000
A bright experienced shorthand secretary is required by the prestigious City firm. High degree of shorthand - must have excellent shorthand & telephone manner with first class organisational & administrative skills. Superb copy processing in a busy professional environment.

CITY: 01-481 2345
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GRADUATE SEC £10,000
Bright efficient Graduate Secretary is required by the prestigious City firm. High degree of shorthand - must have excellent shorthand & telephone manner with first class organisational & administrative skills. Superb copy processing in a busy professional environment.

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MacBlain Nash Temporary Secretaries
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Today's best booking.
Experienced shorthand secretary wanted for personal department of major City bank. Excellent conditions and pay.



PA ADMIN £3,500
Dynamic PA/Administrator is required to work in a busy City Group. Willingness to take full responsibility for the running of the office is essential, as is a flair for organising & general administration. Superb position in plush offices. REC CONS.

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ADMIN ASSIST £3,500
American City Computer Co. requires a dynamic PA to support the Sales/Marketing Coordinator in their U.K. Head Office. Some of her responsibilities include: general administration, superb presentation, excellent organisational & administrative skills. Excellent position in plush offices. REC CONS.

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CONFERENCES £3-210,000
A new opportunity to find total involvement in an exciting & special position. Our Clients, a Sales training organisation requires confident, outgoing secretary to join a hard working team in a specialist & strongly administrative role. Excellent organisational & administrative skills. Excellent position in plush offices. REC CONS.

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Where did Temporaries get Bank Holiday pay?

If you are a Temporary with Brook Street, you not only qualify for Bank Holiday pay but you are entitled to four weeks holiday and free word processor training, all after a short qualifying period.

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An equal opportunity employer.

Judy Farquharson Limited
47 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 9HA.

COLLEGE LEAVERS £7,500 - £8,000

Bright young secretary for exhibition organisers. Confident, presentable with good shorthand and typing. Languages an advantage.

Knightsbridge advertising agency need enthusiastic college leaver with good speeds (90/60) to join team. Lots of involvement. Rights/Assistant for publishers with scope to progress. Good shorthand/typing. Mayfair estate agents need lively secretary with good skills.

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS
We are always keen to interview candidates with excellent secretarial skills for varied temporary assignments in the West End.

FL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MARCH INTO APRIL with OUR TEMPORARY TEAM £6.20p.h.

Our busy team of professional temporary secretaries are always in demand, and it has established an excellent reputation over the years.

If you are a first class, senior level secretary with speeds of 100/60, 2 years Director level experience in central London, and proficient word processing skills, we can offer you an interesting variety of temporary secretarial assignments and the best rates in London.

Our skilled temps are all paid the same rates and are frequently offered the opportunity of temping into a permanent position.

If you would like to temp at the level you deserve and be positively appreciated, please telephone for an appointment or a factsheet: 01-434 4512 (West End) 01-588 3535

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

OFFICE MANAGER/PA £13,000
Set up new offices for this American Company of Architects based near West End where your excellent ORGANISING and secretarial skills along with WP experience is necessary.

CREME DE LA CREME PA £9,000 NEG
This is an excellent opening for a flexible outgoing Secretary with shorthand to handle a variety of functions within the largest sports car company in the UK, where your high level of initiative and motivation is essential.

MATURE EXEC SEC £10,250
This is a senior position for a mature Secretary age 35+ who enjoys organising a demanding but charming Senior Director who delegates. Shorthand and WP experience is necessary.

01-623 4688

BEAUTY + STYLE £8,500
If you are keen to learn about cosmetics and marketing then here is an opportunity to join this exclusive cosmetics and fragrance house. As secretary to their marketing manager, you will need to be well organised, energetic and like responsibility. The atmosphere is glamorous and friendly. 90/60 Skills needed.

01-240 3531

CITY BANKING £9,000
Join this dynamic merchant bank as secretary to a senior manager in a secure financial position. A lively, fast moving environment where your sound secretarial skills and ability to think and act quickly and effectively will be valued. 100/60 Skills and 18 months secretarial experience are essential.

Elizabeth Hunt
01-240 3531
Recruitment Consultants

CAROLINE KING
HI - TECH £9,500 + benefits

This well known computer company need a lively, efficient secretary to join the sales team at one of their London Offices. Lots of administration, telephone contact with clients and meetings to arrange. Skills 80/55, audio and WP experience.

FASHION £9,000
This large fashion group are looking for a well groomed secretary to assist one of their Director's. Lots of confidential work, liaising with other departments and travel arrangements. No shorthand, typing 60 wpm, audio and WP experience. Perks include substantial discounts on clothes and accessories.

please telephone: 01-499 8070
46 Old Bond Street London W.1.

CAROLINE KING SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

PERSONNEL £9,000 - £14,000

We are currently handling several excellent positions at both secretarial and executive level in Personnel. Some offer skilled secretaries an opportunity to make a first move into this field; one position (salary c£14,000) needs a graduate with proven personnel experience.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-629 7262

MEDIA £7,500 - £10,000

We have a wide variety of opportunities for secretaries who would like to work in the following areas:
Cable TV, Publishing, Public Relations, Exhibitions.

In most cases, you will need at least 12 months' experience plus good shorthand and typing skills.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-629 7262

ADMIN. £11,000

The MD of an informal market research company requires a bright enthusiastic PA, who will also take responsibility for office administration and personnel.

You will be involved in overseeing all office services, handling secretarial recruitment as well as running Board Meetings, and preparing reports and proposals.

Good skills (100/60), a flexible attitude and the ability to balance conflicting priorities are essential for this position.

Age 25-30

CITY OFFICE 726 8491
ANGELA MORIMER

MARKETING ASSISTANT/SECRETARY £10,000 p.a.
Mr. Liverpool Street

This well-established and successful computer manufacturing company has appointed a Marketing Manager for its leading product. He now requires an assistant secretary to coordinate research, sales, client, and customer correspondence and to ensure the office runs efficiently. The successful candidate will have a great deal of scope for development. No shorthand or typing is necessary, but good organisational and presentation skills are essential. Probable age 24-35. Please telephone:

Jennifer Selmes, The Finbury Secretaries, Limited
7 Cavendish Square, London W1M 9HA.
Tel: 01-631-0481

SPRING AHEAD AS A TEMP

Enjoy our top rates and a variety of new challenges as a member of our young and "made-in-demand" temporary team. If you are filling in time or need a break about your future career - please take your pick of jobs. Good secretarial skills 80/100sh or audio 50/60 wpm, enthusiasm and smart presentation necessary. Age 18-25. Ring us now for a new start.

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HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS c£12,000

Exciting opportunity for an intelligent, articulate person to work for the Deputy Chairman of a highly successful, rapidly expanding company. Responsibilities include liaison with high level executives and major project figures, handling press releases, social functions and P.R. activities in addition to general P.A. duties and personal matters. Skills of 100/60 wpm, smart presentation, 'A' levels and experience in this field essential. Age 27-33.

434 4512
Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants
99 Regent Street

JANE CROSTHWAITE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Secretary/PA £15-£20,000 W1 Business & Social

Our client, an international business team, requires an executive PA/Secretary with excellent sh/typ skills to handle his business and private affairs in the UK. Working from a small but prestigious office in W1 on higher floor building, co-ordinating his many interests - social, home, family, business and fine arts.

The right candidate will be aged 30 - 40, have previous chief executive experience, an interest in the arts, the ability to liaise with people at all levels and be a good organiser. Salary £15-£20,000 u.s.a.

Please send detailed curriculum vitae to Jane Crosthwaite.

JCR JANE CROSTHWAITE RECRUITMENT LTD
21 BEAUCHAMP PLACE, LONDON SW13 1WQ
TELEPHONE 01-891 2947

MEET YOUR MATCH £11,000 + M/G

One of the best known and leading UK banks requires a capable secretary to assist one of its brightest young stars. Listing at Director level and above, you will become involved in confidential detail, including Personnel Remuneration and Information on the bank's standing.

Age 25-35, you will be used to working at a fast pace, but not on the phone, and have excellent presentation.

Word processing (optional), and good secretarial skills essential (100/60).

CITY OFFICE 726 8491
ANGELA MORIMER

FINE ARTS £9,000

We are looking for a capable secretary to help run a small fund raising department and organise social events. Age c23. 90/60. French useful.

ADVERTISING £9,500

Our client, a well known advertising agency, are expanding and need an excellent secretary for their No. 1 Accounts Director. Lovely atmosphere. Advertising experience useful. Age c22. 80/60.

TM Individual career advice for secretaries and personal assistants
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YOUNG BUT WORTH UP TO £10,000?

An exciting City financial organisation, full of young energetic people and based in very pleasant office, needs you. If you fit this description - well over 100% of you - you are probably a graduate, lively and flexible enough to have a go at anything. Telephone now if the bottom line of the letter is not for you. 100/60 skills needed.

PROFESSIONAL PA/Secretary Music around the world

To £10,000 neg

Take this opportunity to develop and grow with a newly operational project and see a number of exciting projects. Do that for you frequently in the news. As well as normal PA back up you will have the chance to become involved in many new and exciting projects and seeing them to fruition. Essential skills are necessary, 80/60 and a bright personality. The job includes benefits including: cheap travel, free office Central London.

ANGELA MORIMER

ADMINISTRATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICE COMPANY

Small company, pleasant atmosphere, require responsible person age 22+, degree or equivalent for secretarial/receptionist duties. Opportunity to train in word processing and data management and all other internal systems/applications.

Apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Catherine O'Hanlon, 3rd Floor, 16 Hanover Square, London, W1R 9AJ.
01-493 5239
(NO AGENCIES)

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DESIGN: Help with advertising to £3,000
PUBLISHING: Editorial and rights opening to £7,500
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ADVERTISING: Junior opportunity, use your skills to £3,000

All the above posts need good shorthand and/or typing. COLLEGE LEAVERS AND SECONDARY JOBSERS APPLY NOW.

01-730 5148 (Rec. Con.)
JAYGAR

PART TIME SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

for W1 dental surgery. Some typing and bookkeeping. Use of computer keyboard. Hours and salary by arrangement.

Telephone: 01-935 3438
Mr. Trevitt.

TEMPING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Why take just any temporary secretarial job when you could work in RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, OR PUBLISHING? We have lots of vacancies and other excellent opportunities. And what's more we pay you in the same week!

Why not call us today on:

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or 01-493 8363
T.A. CROSSVENOR
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CAROLINE KING
TEMPS! TEMPS! TEMPS!

We urgently need to recruit experienced and adaptable staff to complement our busy, experienced team. If you have excellent skills - especially word processing, please telephone Brenda Stewart on

01-499 8070
CAROLINE KING SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

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01-629 5253

£12,000

You respond quickly to fast-changing situations, anticipate potential problems and enjoy an international environment. As PA to the Chairman and Deputy of a major UK group in SW1, if you possess the normal shorthand and WP skills to provide their secretarial back-up and a good educational background.

City 327 8500
West End 439 7001

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The International Group

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for friendly family. Initiative, flexibility and sense of humour essential. Excellent conditions and pay. Tel: 01-260 1481, No Agencies

ADMINISTRATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICE COMPANY

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Apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Catherine O'Hanlon, 3rd Floor, 16 Hanover Square, London, W1R 9AJ.
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COLLEGE LEAVERS

BANKING MORTGAGE CHAIRMANS SUITE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Excellent salaries, excellent career progression, excellent perks offered in two central office locations, good education, good skills 90/60 and basic WP knowledge.

Call Josephine Marston on 023 4343

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Young rapidly expanding design company requires a highly motivated, confident, and pro-qualified accountant willing to progress with a fast growing company, based in E1 very close to the City. The company operates from superb offices, level starting salary of £10,000-£12,000 (with regular increases).

Contact: Alice Stewart or Nigel Clewley on 01-231 8761 for further details

1ST JOB IN DESIGN KNIGHTSBRIDGE

The opportunity exists for a college or 2nd year student to be recruited by our design in the exciting environment of design. We present, using computer, a job with an 80/50 wpm, age 17-25. Salary to £7,500.

Susan Beek
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COLLEGE LEAVERS £7,800+

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01-499 6566
or 01-493 8363
T.A. CROSSVENOR
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRAVEL PR

Small PR Consultancy specialising in travel requires young enthusiastic secretary to work for two accounts managers. Good secretarial skills (shorthand optional), salary £7,000 negotiable. Smart presentation essential. Telephone Marie on 023-9374. No Agencies.

ART GALLERY PA £6,000

A charming PA/Sec (100/50) is needed by the Managing Director of an extremely successful gallery. Aged between 24-32, experience at senior level in addition to a great education and an eye for an eye for the camera. A bonus will also be given to someone who demonstrates shorthand and typing. Call Sha on 498-1631.

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DRAKE PERSONNEL

SALES SEC £3,000

An established UK company are opening a new sales office in the City. They need a resource and initiative Audio Secretary to cover a very busy workload. You will use your organisational and administrative skills to support the sales team. Training on WP and other relevant areas will be provided. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a 2:1 and be able to read the English press and have a good knowledge of the City. If you are looking for a new challenge and a first class and friendly personality call:

MARILEE DRISCOLL on 724 8111

The Drake People

DRAKE PERSONNEL

FASHION EXECUTIVE

This highly successful and expanding trendy fashion company want an experienced Administrator. You will use your organisational and administrative skills to support the sales team. You will be responsible for the running of the office and will be expected to take full responsibility for the running of the office. You will be expected to take full responsibility for the running of the office. You will be expected to take full responsibility for the running of the office.

JULIE HUMPHRIES on 221 5072

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RECEPTIONIST PR CO TO £8,000

A successful PR Company with beautiful offices in Central London needs a first class receptionist to join their reception team. With two others you will greet clients, look after a superb switchboard and attend to varied reception duties.

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Multinational Company, culinary requests, offers first class receptionist to join their reception team. With two others you will greet clients, look after a superb switchboard and attend to varied reception duties.

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DRAKE PERSONNEL

SALES SEC £3,000

An established UK company are opening a new sales office in the City. They need a resource and initiative Audio Secretary to cover a very busy workload. You will use your organisational and administrative skills to support the sales team. Training on WP and other relevant areas will be provided. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a 2:1 and be able to read the English press and have a good knowledge of the City. If you are looking for a new challenge and a first class and friendly personality call:

MARILEE DRISCOLL on 724 8111

The Drake People

DRAKE PERSONNEL

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARIES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

01-629 9323

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The Managing Director of a New English/American Corporation needs a Personal Secretary to run the home in Belgravia. A flexible, an eye for detail and the ability to work without supervision essential.

Stella Boyd-Carpenter

DRAKE PERSONNEL

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Travel to America at least once a year when you act as PA to the Director of the bank. You may be needed to deliver the odd certificate to New York and must be able to keep calm in the hectic trading room atmosphere. Your shorthand and typing skills will be utilised as well as your flair for organisation.

Call LYNN LAIT TODAY on 221 5072.

The Drake People

DRAKE PERSONNEL

PUTNEY £10,000

The Managing Director of an expanding Company needs the back-up of a superb PA/Secretary to help him. He is interested in wide ranging and he requires an imaginative, energetic and proactive secretary who can become part of the management team.

Stella Boyd-Carpenter

DRAKE PERSONNEL

IMMEDIATE START ADVERTISING CO. BOND ST.

Working for two exciting advertising agencies, you will be stimulating and varied. Working with creative partners and superb staff. Good typing, shorthand, telephone manner, and a good presentation. If you are looking for a new challenge and a first class and friendly personality call:

Bernadette of Bond St.
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16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0
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Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

CRÈME

INCENTIVE TRAVEL
 Chairman requires complete PA with good skills and organizational ability. Ideal opportunity to learn all aspects of the incentive travel and conference business. Salary: £12,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please write with CV to: Incentive Travel, 1 Sturminster Street, Finsbury Circus, London W1V 7BA.

SECRETARY
 £6,500 p.a.
 We require an experienced, enthusiastic secretary to join our progressive property development company. The ideal candidate will have good organizational skills, be a team player, and have good communication skills. Salary: £6,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply in writing with CV to: Mrs G. M. Jarvis, Treadwell Court, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3PA. Tel: 01-409 0040.

SOLICITORS PA/SECRETARY - WCL
 Senior litigation partner in young expanding firm requires quality secretary with administrative skills. Salary around £9,500. Please send application with CV to: W. Jarvis, 7 Great Portland Street, London W1M 0AA. Telephone: 01-242 3613.

ESTATE AGENTS
 Busy South Ken Office requires keen, young, well spoken Sec with excellent office skills (no shortlisting, but word processor experience). Good salary. Call Denise Gabriel 01-370-6761.

HINDRACK
 EXECUTIVE PA
 £18,000
 Do you need a challenging and demanding job? If so, then we have an exciting opportunity for a highly professional PA with excellent organizational skills, to join our busy office. Salary: £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply in writing with CV to: Hindrack, 15 Knighbridge, London SW1X 7LX.

AUDIO SECRETARY
 BUSY SURVEYORS OFFICE
 In West End. Accurate typing essential. 50/60 wpm, WP experience (will cross train). Send CV, under ref CWD/S to: BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS, 19/24 Saint George Street, Hanover Square, London, W1R 0FT. (No Agencies)

OIL SECRETARY/TYPIST
 £7,250+
 A State Oil Agency of a Middle East Country requires an efficient secretary in its London office to work in a busy research section. In addition to general secretarial skills, applicants must be able to use a W.P. (preferably IBM). Good shorthand as well as interest in world affairs will be a definite asset. The right candidate has a good opportunity for personal development and future prospects. Please ring Personnel Officer on 01-235 7060 and send CV particulars to General Petroleum and Mineral Services (CI) Ltd., 15 Knighbridge, London SW1X 7LX.

SECRETARY
 £9,500
 small active commercial estate Agency in West 1 is seeking a young cheerful and bubbly secretary to look after the two Directors. Four weeks holiday. Reference D.B. Telephone 01-491-2700

BUSY ESTATE AGENTS
 My client a busy estate agent requires a secretary to assist in the office. The ideal candidate will have good organizational skills, be a team player, and have good communication skills. Salary: £9,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply in writing with CV to: Mrs G. M. Jarvis, Treadwell Court, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3PA. Tel: 01-409 0040.

THE NATIONAL TRUST
 The National Trust requires a secretary to assist in the office. The ideal candidate will have good organizational skills, be a team player, and have good communication skills. Salary: £9,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply in writing with CV to: Mrs G. M. Jarvis, Treadwell Court, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3PA. Tel: 01-409 0040.

Hampton & Sons

FINISHED KITCHENS
 A SELECTION FROM OUR EXPERIENCED
 CHARTERED MILL, W1
 Modern newly dec and furnished flat in good location. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 study, 1 terrace. £210 per week. Tel: 01-224 1974.

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 BEST SELLER
 Personalized service and advice. We have a large selection of properties for sale and rent. Please call for more details.

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 CLAPHAM SOUTH SW12
 Close tube and amenities. 1 1/2 bed flat in conversion. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 study, 1 terrace. £210 per week. Tel: 01-224 1974.

Keith Cordale
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 Selection of fully furnished flats in prime location. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 study, 1 terrace. £210 per week. Tel: 01-224 1974.

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 South Ken flat, furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 1 dining room, 1 kitchen, 1 study, 1 terrace. £210 per week. Tel: 01-224 1974.

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RACING: STATE OF Aintree GOING WILL PLAY MAJOR PART IN DECIDING FATE OF EXPECTED £25M OF WAGERS ON GRAND NATIONAL

Jane's Brave Boy should follow up for Chapman

By Mandarini

David Chapman, the Stillington (Yorkshire) trainer, will always be remembered for his association with the prolific filly, Soba, who won so many good prizes for him, notably the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood. Soba rose from a humble beginning to take on the best in the land and it is the ability to improve horses out of all recognition and win race after race with them that has characterized Chapman's career.

Sprinters have been Chapman's forte, but he does not confine himself to speed horses and this afternoon at Hamilton Park he can take the feature race, the Lang's Supreme Scotch Whisky Trophy Handicap with the improving Jane's Brave Boy, who is napped to follow up a recent success at Catterick.

When scoring in an apprentice race over seven furlongs at the Yorkshire course last week, Jane's Brave Boy looked the sort who would win quickly before the handicapper took his measure. He was always going well and once he took the lead two furlongs from home he never looked in danger.

His nearest pursuer, 2 1/2 lengths behind, was John Gilpin, who takes him on again today on identical terms. John Gilpin kept on well in the Catterick race, but there is no logical reason to suggest that he should reverse the placings. Indeed, more danger to my selection may come from the maiden Hinckley Lane, from Mick Easterby's in-form stable. Hinckley Lane looked like an improving animal when he finished fourth to Forman at Doncaster, having failed to reach a place in his three attempts last year.

Another attractive bet at the Scottish course could be Sonnelene, in the Gleanoye Malt Whisky Quach Handicap. Trained at Ayr by John Wilson, Sonnelene ran well in most of her races last season, notably when second to the recent Doncaster winner, Rove, at Edinburgh on her final outing. There is a Newmarket whisper for Mark Tompkins's My Derya, but Sonnelene's form looks much sounder.

Door Latch holds key to fairytale

By Michael Seely

Grand National fever began to grip the racing world yesterday as the countdown to the world's most exciting steeplechase began with the publication of the four-day acceptors. Josh Gifford, second as a jockey on Honey End to Foinavon in 1967 and trainer of the 1981 winner, Aldamiti, is this year responsible for the heavily-backed Door Latch.

"I start to get the jitters when I pull out onto the M6," said the hardened 44-year-old professional. "It's a marvelous meeting and a fantastic race. I feel the same as a trainer as I did as a jockey and I hope it will never change. There's nothing else to touch it."

Victory for Door Latch's owner, the 91-year-old Jim Joel, would be in keeping with the fairytale results so often associated with the big race. But the trainer gave a cool assessment of the prospects of his eight-year-old winner of Ascot's SGB Chase. "I fancied Aldamiti a lot when he won and even more when he fell at the first the following season. Door Latch is a class horse and he's got a hell of a chance. I'd like to have waited for another year, but then he would have had 11st 12lb. He acts in heavy going, but in view of his inexperience I certainly don't want it to be worse than good to soft."

The final state of Aintree's notoriously quick-drying turf is going to prove vital not only to trainers and jockeys but also to the destination of £25m of punters' money, more than is wagered on the Derby.

Yesterday's report from the Liverpool manager, John Perrett, was as follows: "We have had no serious rain since Friday. The going is nearly good on the run down to Bechers. It's softer on the far side of the track and good to soft in the home straight. It's a fine day and the forecast for the rest of the week is for dry weather."

Tim Forster is hoping for heavy going as the nation's most pessimistic trainer seeks to equal Fred Rimell's post-war record of four National winners. "The softer for Last Suspect the better, though it's not so important for Port Askaig. I don't think I can possibly win another National and there's no pressure on me at all. After all, the horse has already done it."

Hywel Davies, last year's winning jockey, was more forthcoming than his apparently laid-back employer. "It's asking a lot I know, but Last Suspect couldn't be better and he's won both his races this season. I hope to use the same tactics as last year, hunting around on the outside and then trying to bring him with a late run."

Last year West Tip started joint favourites with Greasepaint and cost the punters a fortune when falling with



Hallo Dandy, the 1984 Grand National winner who has been well backed to repeat that success

Richard Dunwoody when going easily in the lead at Bechers Brook on the final circuit. Once again a flood of money has forced the nine-year-old's price down from 16-1 to 9-1 after his recent Newbury victory.

Yesterday West Tip did his final serious gallop at Droichead. "He went two miles with Von Trappe and I can tell you he's no slouch," said Michael Oliver, the trainer. "The horse has come right for the race. I have trained him for. The only bad race he's run this season was in the Welsh National, but that was my fault for running him in heavy going. But he'll be perfectly alright in ordinary soft ground."

With 60 still standing their ground at yesterday's declaration stage, 20 will have to be withdrawn overnight as the maximum number allowed to take part. Although Essex is automatic top weight with 12st the Czechoslovak horse does not count for handicapping purposes and the weights of the remainder have therefore been raised 3lb. Corbiere will have to carry 11st 7lb as the best Aintree performer since Red Rum seeks to improve on his record of a win and two thirds.

"Logic says that a horse who won with 11st 4lb as an eight-year-old can't win again with 11st 7lb as a 12-year-old. Last year's winner, West Tip, was a tremendous shape. He's sure to be running on the death, particularly if the going is

Rain could rule out Irish hardy annual

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

Greasepaint, who has played a starring role in each of the last three runnings of the Aintree Grand National, finishing in the first four every time even if outright success has always evaded him, will be declared for Saturday's renewal, but Dermot Weld, the trainer, warned yesterday: "If the ground looks like being very soft I would have to consider him a doubtful starter."

Weld added: "As he gets older he seems less and less able to handle soft going". It would be a big disappointment if Greasepaint could not take his chance as he has been specifically trained for this one race all season and is in superb order having come through a testing preparation.

Given good ground, Weld believes that he is now well enough handicapped to win and he points out how well he performed under 12st in Ireland's biggest summer steeplechase, the Galway Plate, last August.

There will be other defections from the list of Irish Aintree possibilities in consequence of tough races in Monday's Jarnetown Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse. However, Pat Hughes, trainer of the surprise winner, Insure, said yesterday that the horse was none the worse for his exertions and would well take his chance at Aintree, with Michael Flynn, the winning jockey on Monday, again having the ride.

Marcelo and Mister Donovane, neither of whom completed the course behind Insure, are now certain non-starters and Arthur Moore, who withdrew the Irish National fourth, The Eiler, at the four-day stage, admitted he would have runners at all at Liverpool this week.

His stable jockey, Tom Taaffe, will however still have a ride in the Seagram promotion, having been booked by the English trainer, Robin Gow, for the outsider, Sommeiler.

Excursion, one of the Irish entries singled out by Dermot Weld as a likely danger to all-comers, is now not certain to take part. His owner-rider, Mrs Rosemary Stewart, is having second thoughts after Excursion was beaten into second place behind Olympian Princess at Fairyhouse on Sunday, and may now keep the horse fresh for the Guinness Chase at Punchestown later in April.

For Auction, the winner of the 1982 Champion Hurdle, suffered a fatal fall in yesterday's Power Gold Cup at Fairyhouse. The race went to Batters, who was twice hampered by fallers when finishing unplaced in the Arke Trophy Chase at Cheltenham.

This race was run at a cracking gallop taking into account the heavy going as First Noel quickly built up a 20-length lead and was still clear but starting to tire at the third last fence. Early in the straight, Boro Quarter, carrying the Dawn Run colours of Mrs Charmian Hill, moved into the lead with fluttering ease, but Batters, on whom Tom Morgan had huffed the inside rail throughout the last mile, came through to win going away.

At Fairyhouse this afternoon, Bonalme, who finished sixth to See You Then in the Champion Hurdle, was well as expected for a 33-1 outsider, looks a worthy top weight in the Hoozer Handicap Hurdle, another Cheltenham runner. Attitude Adjuster, looks set to extend his winning run in the Coolmore Joseph O'Reilly Memorial Cup. Attitude Adjuster was ridden by Ted Walsh to victory in the Christies Foxhunters Chase, but Walsh has now given up riding over fences. Ende Bolger will deputize here.

At the start was a lot more than the two lengths and a neck by which the mare was beaten into third place behind De Rigueur.

This did not detract from De Rigueur's performance under top weight and an enterprising ride by Willie Carson, who picked the best ground all the way round on the outside to hit the front more than a furlong from home. It was the Lester Piggott-trained Vague Melody who plipped young Williams' mount for second place.

Like all his family, Peter Walwyn has a love of racing very deeply in his bones. On Saturday, the Lambourn trainer is taking a busload of 40 friends to Aintree for the fourth successive year. "The National is part of our heritage. The moment I arrive at the course I walk out onto the track and start to shake with anticipation. It's the same at Epsom when I go out onto the Downs before the Derby. These are events that everyone should experience at first hand at least once in their lives."

Tens of thousands on the track and tens of millions of viewers will be sharing Walwyn's excitement when the starter presses the handle at 3:20 on Saturday.

West Tip and Mr Snugfit are joint favourites at 9-1 with Ladbrokes. "There has been tremendous interest this year with so many fancied runners," said the firm's representative, Mike Dillon, "you've got three previous winners in Last Suspect, Hallo Dandy and Corbiere all reported fit and fancied. And Greasepaint's another popular old stager. And then you've got interesting newcomers like Door Latch, The Tsarevich and Knock Hill. It's a toss up whether West Tip or Mr

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National declarations and betting

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Today's course specialists

HAMILTON PARK: TRAINER: 15 winners from 52 runners, 20% in 15 from 52, 22.7% in 15 from 52, 21.6%. JOCKEYS: R Cochrane, 8 winners from 89 rides, 20%; G Duffell, 44 from 229, 18.2%.

HAMILTON PARK

Going soft. Draw: 52-51, middle to high numbers best. 2.15 BANANA RUM MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £900; 1m 40yd) (5 runners) 1- BANTLE BEAU (Barclay) 1m 11.00 2- LOST OPPORTUNITY (Mann) 11.00 3- MANTON (Mann) 11.00 4- MANTON (Mann) 11.00 5- MANTON (Mann) 11.00

2.45 BROMISTA RUM HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,100; 1m 10) (4 runners) 1- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00 2- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00 3- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00 4- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00

Hamilton selections. 2.15 Mr Kewmill. 2.45 Brave And Bold. 3.15 JANE'S BRAVE BOY (nap). 3.45 Minizinn Lady. 4.15 Sonnelene, 4.45 Sonny One Shine.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent. 2.15 Mr Kewmill. 2.45 Brave And Bold. 3.45 Vichy-Val. 4.15 My Derya. 4.45 Regal Capistrano.

By Michael Seely. 2.45 Elegant Bull. 3.15 KINCKLEY LANE (nap).

3.15 LANGS SUPREME SCOTCH WHISKY TROPHY HANDICAP (£2,140; 1m 40 yd) (11 runners) 1- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 2- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 3- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 4- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 5- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00

3.45 ELEGANT BULL (nap). 4.15 My Derya. 4.45 Regal Capistrano.

4.15 GLEANOYE MALT WHISKY QUACH HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,600; 5f) (5 runners) 1- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

4.45 TOTTER HOME MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £700; 5f) (10 runners) 1- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

4.15 GLEANOYE MALT WHISKY QUACH HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,600; 5f) (5 runners) 1- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

4.45 TOTTER HOME MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £700; 5f) (10 runners) 1- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

4.15 GLEANOYE MALT WHISKY QUACH HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,600; 5f) (5 runners) 1- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

Warwick results

Going soft. Draw: 52-51, middle to high numbers best. 2.15 BANANA RUM MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £900; 1m 40yd) (5 runners) 1- BANTLE BEAU (Barclay) 1m 11.00 2- LOST OPPORTUNITY (Mann) 11.00 3- MANTON (Mann) 11.00 4- MANTON (Mann) 11.00 5- MANTON (Mann) 11.00

2.45 BROMISTA RUM HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,100; 1m 10) (4 runners) 1- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00 2- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00 3- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00 4- DANIEL (Mann) 11.00

3.15 LANGS SUPREME SCOTCH WHISKY TROPHY HANDICAP (£2,140; 1m 40 yd) (11 runners) 1- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 2- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 3- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 4- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 5- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00

3.45 ELEGANT BULL (nap). 4.15 My Derya. 4.45 Regal Capistrano.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent. 2.15 Mr Kewmill. 2.45 Brave And Bold. 3.45 Vichy-Val. 4.15 My Derya. 4.45 Regal Capistrano.

By Michael Seely. 2.45 Elegant Bull. 3.15 KINCKLEY LANE (nap).

3.15 LANGS SUPREME SCOTCH WHISKY TROPHY HANDICAP (£2,140; 1m 40 yd) (11 runners) 1- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 2- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 3- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 4- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00 5- BARNES STAR (C J W Moore) 11.00

3.45 ELEGANT BULL (nap). 4.15 My Derya. 4.45 Regal Capistrano.

4.15 GLEANOYE MALT WHISKY QUACH HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £1,600; 5f) (5 runners) 1- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- EL ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

4.45 TOTTER HOME MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £700; 5f) (10 runners) 1- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 2- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 3- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 4- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00 5- ALABAN (D J W Moore) 11.00

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FONTWELL PARK

Going heavy. 2.0 LISSEY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2001; 2m 2f) (21 runners) 1- MISS HAVEN (A Moore) 11.00 2- MISS HAVEN (A Moore) 11.00 3- MISS HAVEN (A Moore) 11.00 4- MISS HAVEN (A Moore) 11.00 5- MISS HAVEN (A Moore) 11.00

2.30 SHUTTLECOCK STAR. 2.30 Hizz. 3.0 Camrew. 3.30 Cresun. 4.0 San Carlos. 4.30 Graigneananagh.

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2.30 SHUTTLECOCK STAR. 2.30 Hizz. 3.0 Camrew. 3.30 Cresun. 4.0 San Carlos. 4.30 Graigneananagh.

Fontwell selections

2.0 Shuttlecock Star. 2.30 Hizz. 3.0 Camrew. 3.30 Cresun. 4.0 San Carlos. 4.30 Graigneananagh.

2.0 SHUTTLECOCK STAR. 2.30 Hizz. 3.0 Camrew. 3.30 Cresun. 4.0 San Carlos. 4.30 Graigneananagh.

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2.0 SHUTTLECOCK STAR. 2.30 Hizz.

